



Public Rituals - The Funeral Ceremony

OVERVIEW

The Funeral Ceremony is a supplemental ceremony to the memorial service for a member who has passed. It is an opportunity for Phi Kappa Tau and the brothers of the deceased member's chapter to honor their life and contributions to the fraternity.

The ceremony is also done at each National Convention, either on the convention floor or at an outside venue to honor all members who have entered "Chapter Eternal", the final resting place for brothers of Phi Kappa Tau.

CEREMONY PREPARATION

This ceremony, although always a somber occasion, can be incredibly powerful for members of the brother's family to witness and behold the strength of the brotherhood's love for their members. As the scripting will indicate on the following page it can be done at home, at church, or at the grave. Additionally it can be done outside at a place of significance, or a place that can accommodate the number of guests present.

In the event of an active undergraduate member passing this can also be an opportunity to incorporate the campus community at a candlelight vigil to allow the campus the opportunity to mourn with the brotherhood.

Ideally this ceremony is formal, however that is more conditional on the circumstances of the memorial service it is taking place at.

In advance of the funeral ceremony, have at the ready a token of greenery to place at an appropriate location in accordance with the scripting. This location can be a small table or altar. The type of greenery as described by the ritual can be a flower (red carnation), a piece of evergreen, or both. There is flexibility in this depending on what is available in the memorial's area.

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SCRIPTING

This service is to be read by two brothers designated by the chapter. It may be used as part of the service at home, at the church, or at the grave.

FIRST BROTHER: We have assembled here to offer the last tribute of love and honor to our brother who has passed into the great beyond.

SECOND BROTHER: "The silver cord is loosed, the golden bowl is broken, the pitcher is broken at the fountain, the wheel is broken at the cistern, and the spirit returneth unto God who gave it."

FIRST BROTHER: We mourn the breaking of these earthly ties and this loss of companionship. Another link has been severed from the fraternal chain that binds us together.

SECOND BROTHER: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

FIRST BROTHER: To the sorrowing relatives and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy in this hour of bereavement and loss.

SECOND BROTHER: "The God of our Fathers whose name is from everlasting will be our God forever and ever."

FIRST BROTHER: This emblem we now place with our brother. By it we are reminded of the fragrance and charm of our brother's life. It is symbolic of our fondest hope that the flower of life shall bloom again in that Eternal Spring.

SECOND BROTHER: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

FIRST BROTHER: Amen.

SECOND BROTHER: Amen

Note: "Token" to be a flower, a piece of evergreen, or both.