

FUNERAL RITUAL



SIGMA NU FRATERNITY

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUNERAL RITUAL.....	3
FUNERAL RITUAL.....	4

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AUTHORIZED BY THE SEVENTIETH GRAND CHAPTER
OF SIGMA NU FRATERNITY, INC. (2023)

ATTEST:

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INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUNERAL RITUAL

THE SIGMA NU FRATERNITY FUNERAL RITUAL IS TO BE USED IN THE SORROWFUL OCCASION THAT A BROTHER HAS ENTERED THE CHAPTER ETERNAL. THIS IS A PUBLIC CEREMONY AND ANY FORMAL REVISIONS TO THE CEREMONY ARE UNDER THE PURVIEW OF THE SIGMA NU FRATERNITY RITUAL COMMITTEE.

THE CHAPTER SHOULD NOT ASSUME DIRECTION OF THE LAST SERVICE, OR FUNERAL, FOR A DECEASED BROTHER EXCEPT ON REQUEST OF THE IMMEDIATE FAMILY, NEXT OF KIN, OR HEIRS WHO TAKE THEIR PLACE. UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH A REQUEST, PROMPT NOTICE OF THE FACT, AND OF THE TIME AND PLACE FOR THE SERVICE, SHALL BE PROVIDED. IF APPROPRIATE, PALLBEARERS AND OTHER ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE MADE IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE FAMILY, NEXT OF KIN, OR HEIRS.

IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, THE CHAPTER SHOULD PLAN TO USE THE FUNERAL RITUAL IN A SOLEMN LOCATION, INCLUDING, IF APPROPRIATE, THE ROOM OR HALL IN WHICH THE CHAPTER CONDUCTS ITS INITIATION CEREMONIES. IT IS ALSO APPROPRIATE TO CONDUCT THIS CEREMONY AT A FUNERAL HOME AS PART OF THE VISITATION FOR THE DECEASED BROTHER.

DUE TO THE BREVITY OF THE CEREMONY, THE CHAPTER MAY ALSO CONSIDER SOME OTHER WAYS TO COMMEMORATE THEIR DECEASED BROTHER, INCLUDING THROUGH A GIFT TO CHARITY IN HIS HONOR, AN APPROPRIATE EULOGY, AND OTHER READINGS.

SINCE THIS IS A PUBLIC CEREMONY, AND APPROPRIATE SIGMA NU ROBES MAY BE WORN, THE CHAPTER DOES NOT NEED TO BE OPENED TO PERFORM THIS CEREMONY. THE OFFICIANTS IN THE CEREMONY, THE EMINENT COMMANDER AND CHAPLAIN, NEED NOT BE THE CURRENT OFFICERS OF A SIGMA NU CHAPTER.

THIS CEREMONY IS BASED ON JUDEO-CHRISTIAN SCRIPTURES AND TRADITIONS, AS OUR FOUNDERS WERE CHRISTIANS. IF THE FAMILY, NEXT OF KIN, OR HEIRS WISH TO MODIFY ANY PORTION OF THIS CEREMONY TO BE MORE IN LINE WITH THEIR PARTICULAR FAITH TRADITION, SUCH MODIFICATIONS ARE ALLOWABLE, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE PORTIONS OF THE CEREMONY THAT ARE SPECIFIC TO SIGMA NU FRATERNITY, ESPECIALLY THE THIRD PARAGRAPH READ BY THE EMINENT COMMANDER AND THE COMMITMENT LED BY THE CHAPLAIN, BOTH OF WHICH ARE BASED ON OTHER CEREMONIES OF SIGMA NU FRATERNITY.

FUNERAL RITUAL

E.C. (STANDS AT THE HEAD OF THE CASKET IF IN FUNERAL SETTING;
OTHERWISE STANDS AT FRONT OF ROOM.)

BROTHERS AND FRIENDS, WE ARE ASSEMBLED HERE TO LEARN AGAIN THE LESSON OF OUR MORTALITY, TO REALIZE ONCE MORE THAT WE HAVE NO CONTINUING CITY, AND TO KEEP GREEN THE MEMORY OF OUR LOVED AND LOST.

IN THE MIDST OF OUR SORROW, LOVE WHISPERS THAT WITHIN US THERE IS AN IMMORTAL SPIRIT; FAITH BIDS US BELIEVE THAT CHILDHOOD AND YOUTH DEVELOPING INTO A MANLY LIFE WILL REALIZE A NEVER-ENDING GOOD, AND HOPE TELLS US THAT DECESSUS (DE-SAY-SOO) IS BUT THE GREETING OF AN ETERNAL MORNING.

AT THE END OF OUR BROTHER'S LIFE, WE RECOUNT HIS VIRTUES AND REMIND OURSELVES OF HIS FRIENDSHIP AND SYMPATHY. HE DRANK DEEPLY OF THE FOUNTAINS OF KNOWLEDGE, WAS DISCIPLINED IN SELF-CONTROL, WAS STEADFAST IN THE PERFORMANCE OF EVERY TRUST, AND HAD BECOME MOLDED INTO THAT NOBILITY OF CHARACTER DESIGNED BY THE SUPREME REGENT OF THE UNIVERSE.

RELIGION WILL BE WITH US AS LONG AS MEN HOPE AND ASPIRE AND REFLECT UPON THE MEANING OF LIFE AND THE RESPONSIBILITIES THAT IT ENTAILS. IN SUCH A PRESENCE WE LISTEN TO THE WORDS OF CONSOLATION GIVEN US BY OUR HEAVENLY FATHER THROUGH HOLY MEN OF OLD.

CHAPLAIN (STANDS AT FRONT OF ROOM OR THE FOOT OF THE CASKET WITH RIGHT HAND EXTENDED AND READS THE FOLLOWING VERSES:)

THE DAYS OF OUR YEARS NUMBER THREESCORE AND TEN, AND IF BY REASON OF STRENGTH THEY BE FOURSCORE YEARS YET IS THEIR STRENGTH LABOR AND SORROW.

AS FOR MAN, HIS DAYS ARE AS THE GRASS; AS THE FLOWER OF THE FIELD SO HE FLOURISHETH.

FOR THE WIND PASSETH OVER IT AND IT IS GONE, AND THE PLACE THEREOF SHALL KNOW IT NO MORE.



BUT THE MERCY OF OUR LORD IS FROM EVERLASTING TO EVERLASTING,
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS TO CHILDREN'S CHILDREN.

GOD IS OUR REFUGE AND STRENGTH, A VERY PRESENT HELP IN TIME OF
TROUBLE.

YEA, THOUGH I WALK THROUGH THE VALLEY OF THE SHADOW OF DEATH,
I WILL FEAR NO EVIL, FOR THOU ART WITH ME; THY ROD AND THY STAFF
THEY COMFORT ME.

WAIT ON THE LORD; BE OF GOOD COURAGE AND HE SHALL STRENGTHEN
THY HEART; WAIT, I SAY, UPON THE LORD!

LET THE WORDS OF MY MOUTH AND THE MEDITATIONS OF MY HEART BE
ACCEPTABLE IN THY SIGHT, O LORD, MY STRENGTH, AND MY REDEEMER!

CHAPLAIN (THE COMMITTAL SHALL THEN BE MADE BY THE CHAPLAIN, OR BY THE
BROTHERS PRESENT, LED BY THE CHAPLAIN.)

(COMMITTAL) WE BELIEVE IN GENTLENESS, JUSTICE, MERCY; WE BELIEVE
IN THE LIFE OF LOVE, THE WAY OF HONOR, IN SERVICE IN THE LIGHT OF
TRUTH.

THE SPIRIT OF OUR BROTHER HAVING RETURNED TO GOD, WHO GAVE IT,
WE COMMIT HIS BODY TO THE GROUND. EARTH TO EARTH. ASHES TO
ASHES. DUST TO DUST.

WE BELIEVE IN THE PERSISTENCE OF PERSONALITY, IN THE IMMORTALITY
OF MEMORY, AND HOPE FOR LIFE EVERLASTING. AMEN.

CHAPLAIN ALMIGHTY GOD, UNTO WHOM ALL HEARTS ARE OPEN, ALL DESIRES
KNOWN, AND FROM WHOM NO SECRETS ARE HID, CLEANSE THE THOUGHTS
OF OUR HEARTS BY THE INSPIRATION OF THY HOLY SPIRIT, THAT WE MAY
PERFECTLY LOVE THEE, AND WORTHILY MAGNIFY THY HOLY NAME, WORLD
WITHOUT END. AMEN.

ALL AMEN.

CHAPLAIN (BENEDICTION) TO THE KING ETERNAL, IMMORTAL, INVISIBLE, BE GLORY
AND DOMINION, MAJESTY AND POWER, BOTH NOW AND EVERMORE. AMEN.