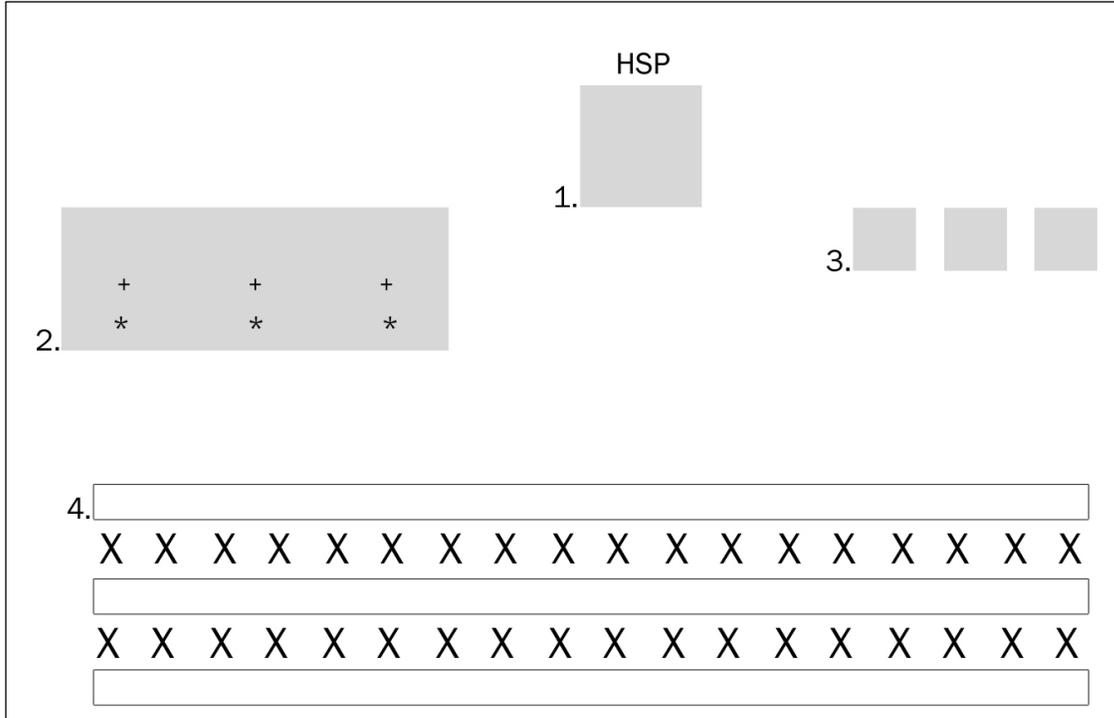


Instructions – Founders Day Commemoration Ceremony



Key | 1 - Podium // 2 - Table // 3 - Chairs // 4 - Rows of Chairs
 * - Candles // + - Replica Stands

EQUIPMENT

- Badge Replica
- Candle (1 - large white; with *the letters $\Lambda\Sigma\Phi$ down the front*)
- Candles (3 new, tapered)
- Candle Holders (3)
- Coat-of-Arms Replica
- Draping/Linen (White)
- Pledge Pin Replica
- Table

The Founders Day Commemoration Ceremony is an **EXOTERIC CEREMONY** and can be conducted in front of non-initiated guests of the Fraternity.

ROBES

- Brother 1 in Black, hood up
- Brother 2 in Black, hood up
- Brother 3 in Black, hood up

SETTING

- This service may take place outside of chapter quarters.
- A small white clothed table holds the pinnacle candle, three unlit candles, and stands for the Coat-of-Arms replica, Badge replica, and Pledge Pin replica.
- Brothers are seated where ever chairs are available. There is no special seating arrangements that need to be made.

BACKGROUND

In advance of the Fraternity's 175th anniversary, the undergraduate delegates at the 53rd Grand Chapter in Orlando, Florida voted to create a ceremony that could be held on or in advance of the Fraternity's annual founding date.

PRESENTATION

Practice the ceremony so it is smooth; those reading should read over the ceremony aloud prior to the ceremony. If possible, all lines should be memorized.

The ceremony is best performed at the end of a dinner or banquet, so that following the ceremony initiated members of the Fraternity may gather to form the Mystic Circle.

The Founders Day Commemoration Ceremony

For this ceremony you will need a podium, draped white table with three chairs. The table should be set at the front of the room or on the stage (if the ceremony is being held at a dinner). At the end of the event, the following ceremony will be performed. Following the ceremony, the dinner will be served. The President steps up to the podium.

HSP: Brothers and distinguished guests, we gather in this moment to commemorate the founding of Alpha · Sigma · Phi Fraternity on the campus of Yale University [insert anniversary year number] years ago [today/tonight/tomorrow/this weekend].

This commemoration ceremony is held in honor of the immortal three founding fathers of our beloved Old Gal.

The Secretary steps forward from behind the President.

HS: On the Saturday evening of December 6, 1845, Louis Manigault, Stephen Ormsby Rhea, and Horace Spangler Weiser met in a room on Chapel Street in New Haven, Connecticut to solidify their plans to establish a sophomore society at Yale.

The second floor room of the boarding house was lit by candlelight, the cold and blustery winds were blowing, and true of the times, and stagecoach travel was slow and uncertain, especially in winter. This was the evening they would take the plans they made in the summer of 1845 and set them into motion, recruiting their first class of sophomore members, and by announcing their existence to the world by conducting the Black Lantern Ceremony on campus on June 24, 1846.

It is fitting that we too conducted the Black Lantern Ceremony this evening prior to this event in remembrance of the first Alpha Class brought into Fraternity all those years ago as well as the men who have now joined the Omega Chapter.

Honored Marshal, bring forth these three men, these relics of history, so that we can honor them, their lives, and their contributions to creating a fraternity of harmony and friendship in which loyalty is championed.

Three senior members of the chapter, chosen and led by the Marshal enter the room wearing a black robe with their hood up. The Marshal is unrobed. Each man is carrying a plaque of the mounted insignia of the Fraternity – the coat-of-arms, the badge, and the pledge pin. They place the mounted insignia in stands already on the table in front of three unlit candles.

Brother 1 steps stands, steps forward and takes the first unlit candle and lights it from the pinnacle candle on the center of draped white table. He then lights his candle, places it back on the table, and reads the following. This is repeated for each of the three men.

Brother 1: Louis Manigault.

I am considered by most, the Fraternity's principal founder. I was born in Paris, France on November 21, 1828. I am a descendent from French Huguenots (Hu-geh-notes) who fled France because of religious persecution and immigrated to South Carolina where my family and I became very prosperous in the occupation of trading and merchandising.

It was at Yale, where my good friend and classmate, Stephen Ormsby Rhea and I planned for the founding of another sophomore class society, in direct competition with Kappa Sigma Theta. The planning began in the summer of 1845 and was executed in December later that year. I left Yale before graduating to travel abroad.

Later in life I returned to the South. The Manigault family fortune and our commercial enterprises were beyond repair following the war. I joined my Brothers in the Omega Chapter on November 29, 1899, at the age of 71.

Brother 2: Stephen Ormsby Rhea.

I was born in 1825 at my family plantation – Blackacres, north of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. My family was well established in the area and had gained a position of influence in the community.

I first met Louis at Saint Paul's College in Long Island, New York. We both entered into Yale in 1845. Due to the strict nature of the time, the classroom provided no opportunity for discussion or interaction. Extracurricular activities as a word did not exist yet, so students like Louis and I were encouraged to consider class societies wherein they provided the outlet for students to interact and discuss matters of the day. At the request of my family, I returned to Blackacres in 1846 to run the plantation.

The Founders Day Commemoration Ceremony, cont.

Like many plantations in the South, it suffered from the devastating effects of the Civil War. I spent the remaining years of my life rebuilding and maintaining Blackacres. I entered the Omega Chapter in 1873, while in my late 40's.

Brother 3: Horace Spangler Weiser.

I was born in York, Pennsylvania in 1827 and was the fourth child in my family of 14. My father was a merchant and attorney, so my brother Erastus Hay Weiser and I attended Yale to prepare for a career in law. At first, I was reluctant to become involved with the founding of Alpha Sigma Phi, but was convinced by Louis Manigault to become the third founder of the Fraternity.

Due to illness, I had to cut my participation in the Fraternity and my studies at Yale short, but I kept in contact with the affairs of Alpha Chapter and corresponded with Louis concerning the Fraternity's developments at Yale. After a second failed attempt to attend Yale, I moved to Decorah, Iowa where I founded the Winneshiek County Bank, known today as the Viking State Bank and Trust. I passed into the Omega Chapter on July 19, 1875, at the age of 48.

The Marshal then steps up to the table and extinguishes each of the candles using a silver candle snuffer and then steps to the side of the stage. The President then advances to the podium.

HSP: Three men – Louis Manigault, Stephen Ormsby Rhea, and Horace Spangler Weiser were there, in a dimly lit room, with clasped hands, forming the Mystic Circle, a ring of friendship that has been passed down from one man to another for nearly two centuries.

After each having accepted and signed the proper documents, committing to uphold our five values; Silence, Charity, Purity, Honor, and Patriotism a great Fraternity was born.

There is nothing in the world quite like the congenial friendship of men. At the bottom of every friendship must be mutual respect and affection. These three men had such respect and affection, and their aims in life were motivated by the same high ideals.

Men who would become affiliated with this great Fraternity would strive for a high standard of intellectual character, not seeking merely to learn the lessons assigned each day, but to seek the truth in every

department of study, to gain insight and perspective all for the betterment of mankind.

HM: I call upon the Alumni Director to come forward and pass to each Brother here a set of our letters to display at work or at home to serve as a reminder of the date never to be forgotten.

HSP: Brothers and distinguished guests, as the [chapter designation] Alpha · Sigma · Phi Chapter in its [anniversary year], like each of you here today, proceeds toward the pinnacle of fame, keep in mind these men, our letters, and those first meetings on Chapel Street.

HSP: Brothers, CAUSA LATET

All Brothers: THE CAUSE IS HIDDEN

HSP: VIS EST NOTISSIMA .

All Brothers: THE RESULTS WELL KNOWN

HSP: Thank you for attending our commemoration ceremony.

End of the Founders Day Commemoration Ceremony.