



# Instructions – The Memorial Service Ceremony, cont.

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This is a public ceremony though it may be done privately. It is appropriate to hold this service at homecoming, an alumni reunion, a Sig Bust, at Founders' Day, at a Black and White, or another event.

At the passing of any national leader of the Fraternity, past or present, it is appropriate to hold a service within the chapter. On such an occasion, a chapter should at least note the passing of the national leader with a special Mystic Circle and by wearing black cloth or ribbon behind their badge for a day on campus. Chapters flying the Fraternity flag should lower their flag for seven days at the passing of a national leader, alumnus, or undergraduate of the chapter. On occasion, Fraternity Headquarters may designate a national day of remembrance to commemorate the passing of a national leader. On such a day, all members are encouraged to wear badge attire with black cloth/ribbon behind their badges on this day. This also may be the best day to conduct a Memorial Service and Mystic Circle in honor of the deceased.

If a memorial service is public and separate from funeral services, it is appropriate to arrange for a service notice to be inserted in local newspapers, advising members of the Fraternity and other interested parties who may wish to attend. Some newspapers publish such notices with fraternal insignia. The Coat-of-Arms is appropriate. Reproduction proofs are available from Fraternity Headquarters.

The service can be held in the chapter room for members only; it can be held in a chapel for members and invited guests. It can, on special occasions and with the family's request or permission, be performed in the funeral home or house of worship prior to actual service. And, should a family request; it could be incorporated as part of the actual services. Be alert to traditions of different faiths and religious practices. Adapt the service to fit the situation.

Be sure to advise Fraternity Headquarters of the death of any brother. If possible, send a copy of the obituary or death notice from local publications.

Chapters may wish to memorialize a brother on his passing with a donation to the Alpha Sigma Phi Foundation. Such contributions should be sent to the Alpha Sigma Phi Foundation and often, those donations are designated for the chapter endowment of the brother who passed. A special notice is sent to the family indicating that a donation has been made in the name of the late brother.

# The Memorial Service Ceremony

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## PRESENTATION

The four speaking parts must be memorized. Practice in advance, particularly for public presentation. If no public service is held, the chapter may elect to hold at least the Mystic Circle indicated at the end of this ceremony within the privacy of the chapter room.

*The Marshal leads the President and two other members to the front of the room. They turn and face the audience. The brotherhood follows and files into previously designated seats. Each wears his badge on shirt, sweater, or vest with a small square of black cloth or ribbon pinned behind it. The Marshal and the two other members who accompany the President carry the objects listed below. All lines should be memorized, but if time does not permit memorization, the President may perform all speaking parts. As each says his lines, he places the item on the small draped table and returns to his designated seat within the brotherhood.*

- President: Brothers of Alpha Sigma Phi, we are gathered to mark the passing of our brother into the chapter designated Omega.
- Marshal: We place a lighted candle here, recalling the ancient Lamp of Learning symbol of our Fraternity, for our brother reflected the light of his Alma Mater, transmitting wisdom and knowledge to those with whom he mingled.
- Brother #1: We place a wreath, symbolic of our Fraternity's Laurel Wreath of Victory, representing efforts well expended and wisely directed.
- Brother #2: We place the twin roses of Alpha Sigma Phi, the traditional symbol of endless life, emblematic of the continuing vitality and heritage of our Fraternity. They are tied in Cardinal and Stone, the colors of Alpha Sigma Phi.
- President: Our brother has joined the many who have gone before us in the Mystic Circle and who have left us, as a legacy, the traditions and brotherhood that we so highly cherish. Let his name be ever in our memories.

*At this point, the full name, Greek letter chapter designation, initiation year, "Omega Chapter," and date of death are read aloud. After each name is read, the bell is rung one time. When all names have been completed, the President continues.*

- President: May all that was good in his life be an example to us all.

*If the chapter desires, a member may present a short eulogy about the brother, centering on his involvement and contributions to the Fraternity, on his relations with his brothers and how he exemplified brotherhood. Eulogies should be carefully written in advance. It may be appropriate to ask another party, determined by the circumstances and location, to deliver the eulogy, such as a minister, friend, or associate.*

Marshal:                    Let us pause and offer a prayer for our brother.

*The Marshal motions with his arms for all brothers to rise. Once all have risen, the Marshal continues; everyone remains standing in silence.*

Marshal:                    Gracious and Mighty God,  
Alpha–The Beginning and Omega–The End.  
We approach Thee in our weakness, and humbly crave Thy help.  
We lay our burden of great sorrow at Thy feet,  
and cry aloud to Thee, for comfort in our afflictions.  
Thou has for some wise purpose seen fit to remove from our  
Mystic Circle, a brother from our dear hearts, (Brother First and  
Last Name, University, and year of Initiation).

Sanctify, we beseech Thee,  
to our understanding the truth of our loss,  
to see the light of wisdom, in a world dark with ignorance,  
and be reminded of the friendships in brotherly love,  
so that we may be an arm of service in a world of need,  
wretched with despair, and that we may redound it to our  
eternal good.

We cherish his memory and enter his name now  
into the Omega Chapter, there to remain from this moment,  
until that instant when we are gathered to our Fathers  
in that silent sleep of death, and are again reunited with our  
brothers within the Mystic Circle.

All Hail, ALPHA · SIGMA · PHI, Amen.

*After an appropriate moment of silence, the President then continues:*

President: CAUSA LATET

All: THE CAUSE IS HIDDEN

President: VIS EST NOTISSIMA

All: THE RESULTS WELL KNOWN

*The President walks slowly out of the room. All other brothers follow in silence.*

**SPECIAL NOTE**

*Before or after the Memorial Service, determined by location, **when the brotherhood is in private**, the Mystic Circle should be formed. Consult the Ritual Manual for Special Instructions.*

End of the Memorial Service Ceremony