

MOOSE LEGION MEMORIAL SERVICE

Items needed: eight chairs in front of room; one (1) podium and microphone; one gavel on podium; one (1) small table covered with a white cloth; one (1) smaller black cloth over white cloth with one corner folded onto table; three (3) vacant chairs around table; one (1) un-opened Bible in middle of table on top of black cloth ; quantity of flowers (an even number of each color -purple, blue, gold) to equal number of lodges in Moose Legion jurisdiction – these are given to the Asst. Secretaries prior to ceremony; four candles purple, blue and gold are set behind the bible – a white candle is given to the last asst. Secretary in lineup to carry with flower, this candle is lit just prior to Asst. Secretary march; one (1) each -- Moose Legion blazer, Fellowship blazer, Pilgrim blazer (blazer are draped across seat of three chairs at table with degree emblem facing up; (Speakers should be chosen from the Degrees and dressed in appropriate blazer. Sgt-at-arms should be Fellow or Pilgrim)

(Staff is seated in eight chairs prior to opening of service)

DIRECTOR (*Gives one rap*) -- WE ARE GATHERED AT THIS HOUR FOR THE PURPOSE OF HONORING OUR DEPARTED MOOSE LEGIONNAIRES, FELLOWS and PILGRIMS WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED FROM OUR DEFENDING CIRCLE DURING THE PAST YEAR.

DIRECTOR— “THE MEMBERS OF THE STAFF PERFORMING THE MEMORIAL SERVICE ARE:
(staff rises as name is called, and all sit in unison after entire staff is introduced)

PRESIDENT _____
CHAPLAIN _____
MOOSE LEGIONNAIRE _____
FELLOW _____
PILGRIM _____
SERGEANT-AT-ARMS _____
SOLOIST _____
DIRECTOR _____

DIRECTOR – THE PRESIDENT WILL NOW CONDUCT OUR MEMORIAL SERVICE.

PRESIDENT (*Gives one rap*) — “EVERYONE WILL BE SEATED.
BROTHER SERGEANT-AT-ARMS, YOU WILL PREPARE THE ALTAR.

SERGEANT-AT-ARMS – I DRAPE THIS ALTAR WITH A CLOTH OF BLACK, WHICH SIGNIFIES OUR SORROW IN THE LOSS OF OUR DEPARTED MOOSE LEGIONNAIRES, FELLOWS AND PILGRIMS. I OPEN OUR HOLY BIBLE AS A SYMBOL OF OUR FAITH IN A SUPREME BEING”.
(Sgt.-at-Arms does as instructed and returns to his chair.)

PRESIDENT (*Gives two raps*) — “FRIENDS, ARISE AND STAND WITH HEADS BOWED AND ARMS FOLDED AS THE CHAPLAIN OFFERS PRAYER”.

CHAPLAIN — “DIVINE FATHER, TODAY WE MEET TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORIES OF OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS WHO HAVE BEEN CALLED TO THE REST THAT IS ETERNAL. GRANT US THE MEMORIES OF THEIR FRATERNAL EFFORTS WILL BE EVER WITH US, AND

INSPIRE US TO NOBLER LIVES. WE ASK THAT YOU WATCH OVER THE FAMILIES AND LOVED ONES OF OUR DEPARTED FRIENDS AND BLESS THEM WITH YOUR STEADFAST CARE. LET ALL THAT IS SAID AND DONE AT THIS MEMORIAL SERVICE BE TO THY EVER LASTING GLORY...AMEN.”

PRESIDENT (Gives one rap) — ‘EVERYONE WILL BE SEATED. FRIENDS, WE ARE GATHERED IN MEMORY OF THOSE MOOSE LEGIONNAIRES, FELLOWS AND PILGRIMS WHO WERE SUMMONED FROM OUR DEFENDING CIRCLE AND HAVE CROSSED THE SILENT RIVER THAT MARKS THE UNKNOWN SHORE. IT IS NOT BEREAVEMENT THAT CALLS US HERE, BUT ONE THAT TIME HAS SOFTENED. WE DO NOT STAND THIS DAY IN SAD CONTEMPLATION BEFORE AN OPEN GRAVE, BUT WE HAVE GATHERED IN LOVING MEMORY OF THOSE WHOSE GRAVES ARE DECKED WITH THE GREEN THAT COMES EACH SPRING TIME SYMBOLIZING NATURE’S RESURRECTION AND LIFE ETERNAL.”

(Sgt-at-arms and speaker move in unison to positions. Sgt-at-arms moves to the left of Moose Legionnaire chair and drapes blazer over left arm with logo facing audience)

MOOSE LEGIONNAIRE – “HOW BLESSED IS MEMORY. MEMORY IS A DIVINE POWER BESTOWED UPON GOD’S PEOPLE TO HELP THEM REALIZE THAT -- FAITH WILL UNLOCK ALL DOORS – HOPE IS A LANTERN IN THE DARKNESS -- AND CHARITY IS WHAT WE SHARE WITH OTHERS. THE MEMORY OF THE GOOD WORKS OF OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS AND THEIR DEVOTION TO THESE IDEALS IS A TREASURE TO BE CHERISHED FOREVER.”

“THEY WILL LIVE LONG IN GRATEFUL MEMORY. IN THIS MEMORIAL HOUR WE FEEL THEIR LIVES ARE AGAIN LINKED WITH OURS, AND WE BECOME PURER AND NOBLER, AS WE REALIZE OUR CLOSE RELATION TO THE SPIRIT WORLD.”

“WE BUILT A GREAT FRATERNAL SOCIETY AND IN IT SAW THE REALIZATION OF OUR DREAMS. AROUND EACH MEMBER WE THREW THE DEFENDING CIRCLE OF OUR LOVE AS A PROTECTIVE SHIELD OF BROTHERHOOD. THEY HAVE BEEN CALLED FROM OUR CIRCLE, AND WE REALIZE THAT NOT ALL IS MORTAL.

“IMMORTALITY IS NOT MERELY A BELIEF, BUT A GLORIOUS FACT. TODAY WE GATHER TO PAY TRIBUTE TO THESE MOOSE LEGIONNAIRES AND THEIR DEGREE OF FRATERNAL SERVICE. THOSE WHO FULFILLED THEIR MISSION HERE AND HAVE RESPONDED TO THE ROLL CALL OF THE GREAT BEYOND.”

(Sgt-at-arms drapes blazer over back of chair with logo facing audience)

“AS FRIEND MEETS FRIEND, IN THE HOUSE NOT MADE WITH HUMAN HANDS, WE FIND THE HEAVENLY REALM BROUGHT NEARER AS WE FOLLOW IN MEMORY TO THE HOUSE FROM WHICH NO TRAVELER RETURNS.”

(Speaker, Sgt-at-arms and Pilgrim moves in unison to positions. Sgt-at-arms moves to right of Fellow chair and drapes blazer over right arm; Pilgrim moves to left of Pilgrim chair and drapes blazer over left arm.)

FELLOW — “AS WE REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED FELLOWS AND PILGRIMS, ONCE AGAIN WE ENVISION THEIR SMILING FACES, THEIR LILTING LAUGHTER AND UNIQUE PERSONALITIES. THE GOOD WORK THEY STARTED WILL ALWAYS BE A CONTINUED REMINDER OF THEIR FRATERNAL STEPS IN THE HIGHER DEGREE OF OUR ORDER. BUT WE SHOULD NOT DWELL ON THE SORROW OF THEIR LOSS. THEY HAVE BEEN CALLED TO THE GREAT BEYOND AND THEIR WORK IS DONE. THEY ARE IN THAT ETERNAL REST WHERE WE ALL MUST ONE DAY GO.”

“IT IS NOW UP TO ALL OF US, THE LIVING, TO CONTINUE THE GREAT WORK THEY STARTED. TO STRENGTHEN OUR DEFENDING CIRCLE BY INCREASING MEMBERSHIP IN THE LOYAL ORDER OF MOOSE AND THE MOOSE LEGION. BY MAKING AVAILABLE TO ALL ELIGIBLE MEN, THE SECURITY OF MOOSEHEART AND THE COMFORT OF MOOSEHAVEN. TO OFFER THAT HAND OF FRIENDSHIP, SERVICE AND FELLOWSHIP TO ASSURE THAT OUR FRATERNITY WILL CONTINUE TO GROW.”

‘YES, WE ARE GATHERED TO REMEMBER OUR DEPARTED. BUT NO GREATER TRIBUTE COULD BE GIVEN TO THEM THAN TO GO FORTH WITH A NEWFOUND DEDICATION TO SPREAD THE FRATERNAL WORD TO EVERYONE, SO WHEN WE MEET AGAIN OUR FATERNTY WILL BE BETTER FOR THE WORK WE HAVE DONE.’

(Sgt-at-arms and Pilgrim, in unison, drape blazers over back of chairs with logo facing audience.)

LET US GIVE THANKS FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BEING ASSOCIATED WITH THESE MEMBERS OF THE FRATERNITY’S HIGHER DEGREES. MAY EACH OF US GO FORTH WITH AN ADDED FRATERNAL EFFORT TO PROVE THEIR ENDEAVORS WHILE WITH US WERE NOT IN VAIN.”

(Speaker and sgt-at-arms returns to chairs and Pilgrim moves to podium)

PILGRIM—

“WHEN THE HOURS OF DAY ARE NUMBERED AND THE VOICES OF THE NIGHT
WAKE THE BETTER SOUL THAT SLUMBERED TO A HOLY, CALM DELIGHT,—”

“ERR THE EVENING LAMPS ARE LIGHTED, AND, LIKE PHANTOMS GRIM AND TALL,
SHADOWS FROM FITFUL FIRELIGHT DANCE UPON THE PARLOR WALL:”

“THEN THE FORMS OF THE DEPARTED ENTER AT THE OPEN DOOR —
THE BELOVED ONES, THE TRUE-HEARTED, COME VISIT ME ONCE MORE:”

“HE, THE YOUNG AND STRONG, WHO CHERISHED NOBLE LONGINGS FOR THE STRIFE,
BY THE ROADSIDE FELL AND PERISHED, WEARY WITH THE MARCH OF LIFE.”

“THEY, THE HOLY ONES AND WEAKLY, WHO THE CROSS OF SUFFERING BORE,
FOLDED THEIR PALE HANDS SO MEEKLY, SPOKE WITH US ON EARTH NO MORE!”

“AND WITH THEM THE BEING BEAUTEOUS WHO UNTO MY YOUTH WAS GIVEN,
MORE THAN ALL THINGS ELSE TO LOVE ME, AND IS NOW A SAINT IN HEAVEN.”

“WITH A SLOW AND NOISELESS FOOTSTEP COMES THAT MESSENGER DIVINE,
TAKES THE VACANT CHAIR BESIDE ME LAYS HER GENTLE HAND IN MINE;”

“AND SHE SITS AND GAZES AT ME WITH THOSE DEEP AND TENDER EYES,
LIKE THE STARS, SO STILL AND SAINT-LIKE, LOOKING DOWNWARD FROM THE SKIES.”

“UTTERED NOT, YET COMPREHENDED, IS THE SPIRIT’S VOICELESS PRAYER,
SOFT REBUKES, IN BLESSINGS ENDED, BREATHING FROM THE LIPS OF AIR.”

“O, THOUGH OFT DEPRESSED AND LONELY, ALL MY FEARS ARE LAID ASIDE,
IF I BUT REMEMBER ONLY SUCH AS THESE HAVE LIVED AND DIED.”

HYMN – BLEST BE THE TIE THAT BINDS

PRESIDENT-- “BROTHER SERGEANT-AT-ARMS, PLEASE ESCORT THE ASSISTANT SECRETARIES TO THE ALTAR”

(Sgt-at-arms will retire and lead the Assistant Secretaries into the room and form semi-circle around table. Sgt-at-arms is seated and President continues.)

(Asst. secretary with white candle will light each candle as president describes them and then places lit white candle next to the purple candle. He then returns to end of semi-circle around table)

PRESIDENT -- “WE LIGHT THESE SYMBOLS OF THE HIGHER DEGREES WITH A WHITE CANDLE REPRESENTING THE MOOSE LODGE WHERE EACH DEPARTED BROTHER STEPPED INTO FRATERNALISM. PURPLE FOR THE MOOSE LEGION DEGREE OF SERVICE, BLUE FOR THE FELLOWSHIP DEGREE OF HONOR AND GOLD FOR THE PILGRIM DEGREE OF MERIT. THESE LIGHTS ARE EMBLEMATIC OF ETERNAL LIFE AND THE MANY LIVES TOUCHED BY OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS. MAY THESE LIGHTS BRIGHTEN THE PATH TO THEIR JUST REWARD.”

(Gives two raps) “EVERYONE WILL RISE AS THE CHAPLAIN OFFERS PRAYER.”

CHAPLAIN— “LET US FOLD OUR ARMS AND BOW OUR HEADS -- “DEAR HEAVENLY FATHER, WE THANK THEE FOR THE WONDERFUL GIFT OF MEMORY THROUGH WHICH WE AGAIN RECALL THE BLESSED ASSOCIATION OF THE PAST. MAY THY TENDER MERCY TO THY CHILDREN BE BROUGHT FORCIBLY INTO OUR LIVES, AS WE COMMEMORATE FROM TIME TO TIME, THE PASSING OF OUR DEAR ONES.”

“HELP US TO REALIZE THAT TO DIE IS TO LIVE AGAIN IN THY KINGDOM. WILL THOU REMOVE FROM OUR LIVES ALL SELFISHNESS THAT WE MAY BE MORE USEFUL MEMBERS OF SOCIETY, AND MAY THIS OCCASION BIND US IN TIMES OF LOVE AND FRATERNALISM.”

“AS WE CONTINUE TO HONOR OUR DEPARTED MEMBERS, WILL THOU FILL US WITH FAITH, THAT WE MAY LEARN THE GREATEST LESSONS OF LIFE, AND BE BETTER QUALIFIED TO ENTER THY SUPREME HOME WHERE SORROW AND PARTING ARE UNKNOWN.”

“THESE THINGS WE ASK IN ALL HUMILITY... .AMEN.”

HYMN – THE LORDS PRAYER

PRESIDENT (Gives one rap) “EVERYONE WILL BE SEATED.”... TODAY WE ONCE AGAIN SHOW OUR RESPECT TO THOSE MEMBERS OF OUR LODGES AND MOOSE LEGION THAT WERE KNOWN AND LOVED BY ALL OF US.”

“FAREWELL, BROTHERS — A LONG FAREWELL.”

“WE CALL YOUR NAME -- THE FAMILIAR VOICE IS STILL.”

“WE LOOK FOR YOUR FRIENDLY EYE -- IT IS UNSEEING NOW.”

“WE REACH FOR THE PRESSURE OF YOUR HAND -- IT CAN NO LONGER RESPOND.
YET THE MEANING AND SPIRIT OF ALL REMAINS.”

‘AND SO FAREWELL.’”

“FOR NATURE MOVES WITH A LEVEL AND RESISTLESS FORCE,
ITS WONDERS TO UNFOLD. THIS LIFE IS NOT BE ALL AND END ALL.
THIS TRUTH, ALL REASON AND CREED SUSTAIN.”

“BUT MOOSE LEGIONNAIRES, FELLOWS AND PILGRIMS,
THOUGH WE KNOW ROSES WILL BLOOM AND BLUSH AGAIN
WHERE ROSES FADE AND DIE;
YET THE SWEET FRAGRANCE LINGERS IN OUR MEMORY”

“SO OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS WHO HAVE STEPPED OUT
OF THE DEFENDING CIRCLE; WE CHERISH IN LOVING REMEMBRANCE
THEIR ACTS WHILE IN OUR LIVING MIDST.”

“THEIR FAITH, HOPE AND CHARITY WE TREASURE IN OUR HEARTS.”

“THEIR FIDELITY AND VIRTUE WE PERPETUATE IN OUR BETTER NATURE.”

“THEIR INDEPENDENCE, AND BRAVERY WE ACCLAIM
TO OUR BROTHERHOOD — AND TO ALL THE WORLD.”

“TO THESE DEGREE HOLDERS WHO LIVE FOREVER FAITHFUL
TO THE BROAD PRECEPTS OF OUR ORDER.
THERE IS NO STING IN DEATH AND, NO VICTORY FOR THE GRAVE.”
“THERE IS, INDEED, VICTORY AND TRIUMPH IN SURRENDER
TO THE INEVITABLE — IN A BRAVE AND PEACEFUL WELCOME
TO THE HOUR OF THE SOUL’S PASSING.”

‘TO THE COWARD THE LIFE BEYOND IS DREAD AND DARK;
TO THE BRAVE IT IS CHEERING AND LUMINOUS;
IT IS NOT SACRIFICE, IT IS REWARD;
NOT A HALTING STILLNESS, BUT PROGRESS
AND THRILLING CLAIRVOYANCE.’

“THERE IS SOLEMNITY — YEA, SADNESS —
IN ALL EARTHLY PARTINGS, BUT NOT DESPAIR.”
“WHEN IN GOOD TIME OUR SCROLL IS WRITTEN
AND THE RECORD OF OUR ACHIEVEMENT MADE UP,
LET US, MEET DEATH WITH A LEVEL GAZE.”

“UPON THE FACES OF THE GREAT AND GOOD
THERE SHINES A LIGHT REFLECTED FROM THE GOLDEN HILLS OF HEAVEN,
WHICH DEATH CANNOT EFFACE OR DIM, AND SUCH FOR ALL ETERNITY
THERE WAITS A PEER’S PLACE UPON THE SEAT OF THE MIGHTY”

PRESIDENT -- “THE FLOWERS PLACED ON THE ALTAR REPRESENT THE LODGES IN THIS
MOOSE LEGION JURISDICTION WHERE OUR DEPARTED BROTHERS BEGAN THEIR
FRATERNAL JOURNEY.”

HYMN — “A VACANT CHAIR.”

(Recited while Assistant Secretaries march out of room by placing their on the altar)

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WE SHALL MEET, BUT WE SHALL MISS THEM,
THERE WILL BE ONE VACANT CHAIR,

WE SHALL LINGER TO CARESS THEM,
WHEN WE BREATHE OUR EVENING PRAYER.

WHEN A YEAR AGO WE GATHERED,
MOOSEDOM’S JOY WAS IN THEIR HEART

BUT A GOLDEN CORD IS SEVERED IN THE
ANNALS OF MOOSEHEART

AT OUR FIRESIDE, SAD AND LONELY,
OFTEN WILL THE BOSOM SWELL

REMEMBERING, YES REMEMBERING,
THE MOOSE WE KNEW SO WELL.

THE MOOSE LEGION DEGREE OF SERVICE,
WAS THERE FOR THEM TO JOIN

THE FELLOWSHIP DEGREE
WAS EARNED WITH PRIDE AND HONOR.

THE GOLDEN BLAZER OF THE PILGRIM
EMBODIES THEIR DEGREE OF MERIT

WHEN THE DAY IS SOFTLY QUIET, AND THE
BREEZE IT SEEMS NOT THERE

ARE THEY WHISPERING, SOFTLY WHISPERING,
AS WE WATCH OUR VACANT CHAIR

OF THESE FRATERNAL MEN,
AND FUNFILLED DAYS OF LONG AGO.

OF THE MOOSE LODGE UP IN HEAVEN,
DESTINED FOR US WHEN WE GO.

WE SHALL MEET, BUT WE SHALL MISS THEM.
THERE WILL BE ONE VACANT CHAIR.

PRESIDENT— (Gives two raps) “FRIENDS, ARISE AND STAND WITH HEADS BOWED AND
ARMS FOLDED WHILE THE CHAPLAIN OFFERS PRAYER.”

CHAPLAIN —“DIVINE FATHER, WE THANK THEE FOR ALLOWING US TO ASSEMBLE IN
TRIBUTE TO OUR LOVED DEPARTED, TO ONCE AGAIN AFFECTIONATELY CALL THEIR
NAMES AND BY THE BLESSED GIFT OF MEMORY SEE THEIR FACES.” “OH LORD, WE ASK
THY BLESSINGS ON EACH DEPARTED BROTHER AND HIS FAMILY AND LOVED ONES.”
“GRANT US STRENGTH TO BEAR THE BURDEN OF LIFE, AND WHEN THE END SHALL COME,
GRANT THAT WE MAY FEARLESSLY AND WITH PERFECT FAITH IN THEE ENTER OUR LAST
LONG SLEEP... AMEN”

DIRECTOR— “AS WE CONCLUDE OUR MEMORIAL SERVICE, WE ONCE AGAIN HAVE REMEMBERED OUR DEPARTED MOOSE LEGIONNAIRES, FELLOWS AND PILGRIMS. THEY HAVE GONE TO THEIR ETERNAL REST BUT THEIR WORK MUST BE CARRIED ON. NO BETTER TRIBUTE COULD BE MADE TO THEM THEN TO CONTINUE THE WORK THEY HAD STARTED. BY INCREASING OUR DEFENDING CIRCLE AND OFFERING THE PROTECTION OF MOOSEHEART AND THE COMFORT OF MOOSEHAVEN TO EVERY ELIGIBLE PERSON. LET US NOT LEAVE HERE WITH SADNESS IN OUR HEARTS, BUT WITH RENEWED DEDICATION TO MAKE OUR FRATERNITY GROW AND PROSPER AS A LASTING TRIBUTE TO OUR DEPARTED.”

(Announcements for activities following ceremony)

DIRECTOR — (Gives two raps) — “THIS CONCLUDES OUR MEMORIAL SERVICE. PLEASE REMAIN STANDING AS THE MEMORIAL STAFF LEAVES THE ROOM.”