

2006 Memorial ceremony
Arranged by Jean Chadderdon, West Allis

Worthy Matron: We dedicate this ceremony to the memory of our departed members, who in days gone by have met with us in bonds of fraternity. It is fitting at this time that we bring to the attention of the gathering the virtues that characterized their lives and made their service to our beloved Order a thing to be remembered.

Sisters and Brothers, the altar today shall be called the altar of memory. This candle that I light in the East shall be called the Candle of Memory. Sister Marshal.

Marshal: "Worthy Matron"

Worthy Matron: you will approach the East. (gives marshal lighted candle). Accept from me this light of memory which you shall carry to the Sisters of our Star who represent the five distinguished heroines of our Order and after all their candles are lighted, return the Candle of Memory to the East.

Marshal (turned and facing west): Sisters and Brothers, as we conduct this memorial service, may we hear the voice of Him whose coming was heralded by the Star in the East speaking to us in his ever comforting words:

"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." And "In my Father's house are many mansions, if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you, that where I am there ye may be also." And let the comforting assurance come to us, "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."

(Marshal goes to each Star Point and lights their candle and returns candle to the pedestal in the East and returns to her station).

Worthy Matron: Sister Secretary

Secretary: Worthy Matron

Worthy Matron: Do your records show the names of our members who have received their promotion into a higher sphere or existence so that we may honor their names at the Altar of memory today?

Sister Secretary: We have been saddened by the loss of ___ members. XX and XX have received their promotion and entered the eternal harvest home.

Worthy Matron: May this hour be filled with the spirit of love that can bridge time and space and bring back to us in our thoughts and in our prayers the memory of all those we

hold most dear. This is a sacred moment. May we waft on the wings of song our heartfelt message of love today.

Song:

Worthy Matron (calls up the chapter): I call upon the Five Points of our Emblematic Star to offer their tribute to our beloved departed members. (Star Points take their lighted candles, step behind their chairs and form a circle around the altar). Adah: Blue symbolizes Fidelity and is appropriate to Jephtah's Daughter, who in the morning of life surrendered to the grave the brightest of earthly hopes that she might be faithful to her convictions of right and preserve her father's honor. As a token of faithfulness to the memory of our departed members, I place this candle as a tribute of faithful love upon the Altar of Memory.

(Each Star point, after speech, will place candle on altar and return to circle).

Ruth: Yellow symbolizes Constancy teaching faithful obedience to the demands of honor and justice. Ruth exemplified these virtues in humble station and sought the society of the good and true. In token of appreciation of these virtues, I place this candle as a tribute steadfast constancy upon the Altar of memory.

Esther: White symbolizes Light and Purity. The heroic Queen Esther evinced the purity of her motive and love of kindred and friends by her willingness to risk the loss of crown and life to save her people from death. In token of sincere affection for our departed members, I place this candle as a tribute of light and purity upon the Altar of Memory.

Martha: Green is an emblem of nature's life and beauty. The evergreen is a symbol of immortal Life and teaches us that in the economy of God there is no death, forms change, but the spirit survives. Martha beside the grave of her beloved brother avowed her trustful faith and hope of immortal life. In the full assurance of our departed member's an entrance upon a glorious immortality, I place this candle as a tribute of trustful faith upon the Altar of memory.

Electa: Red symbolizes Fervency and Zeal. Electa represents those who have been pre-eminent in charity and heroic in endurance of the wrongs of persecution. In token of fervency of our affection for our departed loved ones, I place this candle as a tribute of love upon the Altar of Memory.

Worthy Matron: The five rays of our emblematic Star have told of the virtues exemplified by those who were once of us but who are now living in a holy realm, and have made their tributes at the altar of memory. (Star points return to stations).

Can sing another song

Worthy Matron: Sisters and Brothers, realizing that death and separation are not the plan of God and knowing that His boundless love fills all space, let us ask His blessing upon those who are away and those who are here.

Chaplain (going to the altar in the normal way, WM raps up chapter): Our Father, with a heart full of love for Thee and for all of our members who Thou hast called to a higher plane of service, we bow at this altar honoring Thy name and accepting Thy promises. We know that because of Thy love we all shall be united again when this life of service is over. We gather at this altar in their memory and ask Thee to bless this sacred moment. Our loved ones are precious in Thy sight. Their memory is holy to us. And when we each enter Thy portals may we again find in happy association those loved ones who have gone before. All this we ask in Love. Amen

Chaplain returns and WM raps chapter down.