



**I.O.O.F.**

**Graveside Ceremony**



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Upon all occasions the Canton/Encampment/Lodge may turn out in full dress uniform or regalia. *If the deceased has been a member of the Patriarchs Militant there may be an Honor Guard post if requested.*

***Captain.*** We meet here today with hearts full of sorrow and grief to perform the last service which the living can render to the dead; to pay respect to our beloved [Chevalier/Lady; Patriarch/Matriarch; Brother/Sister] to whom we were bound by sincere friendship and true love and whose memory with us will always be a sweet benediction of peace. Let us pray.

***Chaplain.*** Most Gracious Father, in this hour of sorrow, we turn to Thee for help. Thou gavest life—Thou hast taken it away. In the midst of life we thus often are brought face to face with death. Help us, O God, to realize that, though permitted to tarry for a short time, we are hastening toward eternity. Help us to feel that we neither live nor die to ourselves, that Thou dost spare us for a purpose. We thank Thee for the Christian's hope—a hope that reaches beyond the tomb; and while Thou has removed from us our beloved [C/L; P/M; B/S], we thank Thee that we do not mourn as do those who are without hope—the hope of a better world—a world where life and immortality are brought to light through

Thy word. Graciously grant us grace of Thy presence on this solemn occasion and Thy blessing upon us in the further solemnities of this hour. Help us to glorify Thee on Earth that we may all be reunited at last in Heaven. AMEN.

**Captain.** [C/L; P/M; B/S] \_\_\_\_\_ united with \_\_\_\_\_ [Canton] \_\_\_\_\_ [Encampment/LEA/Lodge/LAPM] No. \_\_\_\_ I.O.O.F. on \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ and answered the Master's last call on \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_. The immortal Ruler of the Universe has called him/her from his/her labors on this earth to an exalted position in the Heavens above. The burning taper of his/her life has been extinguished and he/she has crossed the silent river of death. The light of his/her eyes has gone out and his/her lips are forever silent. Although his/her face will be hidden from our vision and his/her voice will no longer be heard, his/her virtues, his/her fidelity and his/her noble deeds are indelibly engraven upon our hearts and our memories forever. His/her hands were full hands, as well as busy hands. He/She sought not only to make conditions better, but to make life sweeter and happier. He/She raised the tone of life and gave himself/herself to the service of those around him/her. In all gratitude we can say of him/her that we are happier because he/she lived, that we are better because his/her

life touched ours, and because of this we and all with whom we come in contact are made better and happier and a beneficent influence has resulted. As there comes to us the thought of lives cut short in the midst of usefulness, let us heed for ourselves the lesson that it taught. If life be short and death so sure, how can we be so careless of the lives we live or the death we die? Waste not the hours so precious and so fleeting. Work while the day of life may last so that, after life, we shall still be in the hearts and love of those we have blessed by the kindly words and deeds. Let us bow in humble submission to Him who has taken from our midst our beloved [C/L; P/M; B/S] and friend, who, though dead, speaketh and bids us to meet him/her midst those celestial joys, which “Eye hath not seen, ear hath not heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive”. “Blessed are they who die in the Lord.” Let us pray.

***Chaplain.*** Almighty and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and of Earth, we pray Thee to look with compassion upon this scene; give peace and comfort to these bereaved ones; remember them in mercy and give them patience under their affliction. Guide and direct us in all things. Bestow Heaven’s benediction upon us all and help us to glorify Thee on earth that we may all be reunited at last in that heavenly home above.

The Lord bless us and keep us; the Lord make  
His face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us.  
The Lord lift up his Fatherly countenance upon  
us and give us peace, now and evermore. AMEN.

