

MEMORIAL SERVICE

CAPTAIN GENERAL: Most Eminent Grand Commander, for what purpose have we assembled here tonight?

COMMANDER: Sir Knights, a Pilgrim Warrior, a follower of the cross, a Companion beloved, has been summoned hence. We have gathered together to honor the memory of our Companion in arms; to tender condolences to the bereaved and crave permission to mingle our tears with theirs. This occasion is stricken with sorrow, but its poignancy is nullified by the preciousness of the hope of the other life where tears and sorrow are unknown. In the midst of life we are in death; but unto them whom shall we turn for succor but to Him who tendered the wind for the shorn lamb.

EMINENT PRELATE: Read to us from our Father's will.

PRELATE: Man that is born of woman is of a few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower and is cut down. He fleeth also like a shadow and continueth not. Seeing his days are numbered, the number of his months are with thee; though has appointed his bounds that he cannot pass. Turn from him that he may rest till he shall accomplish, as an heirling his day. For there is hope of a tree if it is to be cut down that it will sprout again, and that the tender branches there of will not cease. Though the root wax old in the earth, and the stock thereof die in the ground, yet through the sent of water it will bud and bring forth like a plant.

CEREMONIES

(Captain General will stand with a wreathed sword in hand)

CAPTAIN GENERAL: In the hand of our deceased Companion this sword was endowed with three inestimable qualities: Justice, Fortitude and Mercy. Whenever he grasped this glittering sword, his hand first laid hold upon the cross (holding cross of sword upward), and before he drew it from its scabbard, he was well assured of the justice of this cause. I lay his sword, wreathed with the emblem of our affection, on this triangle dedicated to Justice.

(Captain General remains standing; after a pause, the Generalissimo will stand with floral cross in hand)

GENERALISSIMO: Our Companion delighted to wear upon his breast this emblem of his faith. He could exclaim with the Apostles "God forbid that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ." May this (raising the cross) be the token to admit him where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. To the memory of his Christian Fidelity, Courage and Constancy, I lay this emblem on the triangle dedicated to Fortitude.

(The Commander stands with floral crown in hand)

COMMANDER: "Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life." Because our Companion was faithful, we do hope that a crown awaits him in that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. This emblem of that hope (raising floral crown) I now deposit on the triangle dedicated to Mercy.

(brief pause)

COMMANDER: Eminent Grand Recorder, will you read the names of those beloved Sir Knights who have been called from us since we met here last?

(Eminent Grand Recorder reads each name in numerical order by Commandery, and alphabetically, taking care to list only the highest title achieved in this jurisdiction; i.e., "Past Most Eminent Grand Commander John Doe", or "Sir Knight William Smith." After each name is read, a bell will peal (from organ, piano and some other instrument). After the list has been read completely, the Eminent Grand Recorder may read some resolution or comforting words.)

COMMANDER: Sir Knights, this ceremony has refreshed us, comforted our hearts, and strengthened our faith. Let us all henceforth so let our light shine that the world seeing our good works may glorify our Father which is in Heaven, and our friends will deem it a pleasant duty to bestrew our graves with flowers and thereby cherish the memory of our virtuous life.

CAPTAIN GENERAL: Sir Knights, Attention!!
Right hand salute, ho! (hold)
Return salute, ho!

(Sung to the tune of "Taps")

Frater goodnight
Must thou go
When the day and the night need thee so?
All is well
Sleep on now
Take thy rest

(If possible this should be sung with an echo effect <one Sir Knight in front of room and one in the back> However if this is too difficult, it may be sung without the echo effect by all Sir Knights on the team. After the song, the team marches to the back of the room where the Prelate will give the bene-diction.)

PRELATE: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God and the communion of the Holy Ghost be with you all. Amen.

(This ends the Ceremonies)