

## **FUNERAL SERVICE RITUAL**

*(The following may be given in a church or at the grave side as part of a funeral service in co-operation with church authorities. If the Exalted Ruler so decides, that part of the funeral service being conducted by the Lodge may be delivered by the Exalted Ruler or a Brother/Sister other than the Chaplain. Furthermore, if the service is to be held in a home, funeral parlour or a chapel, and not at the grave side, such parts that are not suitable or adaptable should be eliminated. The present ritual ceremony can easily be made to suit each occasion with a little care and preparation. Should the funeral service not be under church auspices the Chapel Service should be used. The Fez will be removed only when entering a church, or any other building in which a funeral or a memorial service is being conducted, and will remain removed until leaving the church or other building. When attending a funeral or memorial service inside a building, an Elk will remove his/her Fez, replacing it only when they leave the building.)*

**CHAPLAIN:** "We as Elks have gathered here today, to pay our last sad respects to the memory of a departed Brother/Sister and to offer our sincere condolences, sympathy and assistance to his/her sorrowing family."

"It is the hour when all Elks cease from their labours and again renew within their hearts their obligations to each other, with special regard to our absent and departed Members. Elkdom, as an Order, seeks ever to exemplify the noble traits of the stately Elk, from which it takes its name. The Elk, unlike the more ferocious animals of the forest, while fleet of foot and ever ready to fight in defence of its weaker members, is naturally docile and lives in peace with all mankind. So we teach all to be quick to hear and strong in responding to the calls of fraternal service such as the circumstances of life may bring upon us. We are bound together by the ties of a great fraternity which seeks to make life sweeter, people better and the world happier."

"The faults of our Members we write upon the sands of the sea, where they may be quickly effaced and forgotten, while their virtues we inscribe upon the tablets of our hearts so that we may realize in a larger degree the living meaning of the Brotherhood of Man."

"Brother/Sister \_\_\_\_\_ has answered that last great Roll Call and has departed upon that Eternal Journey which each of us must sooner or later undertake."

"Never again will our Member pass through the portals of our Lodge; never again will his/her hand be extended in the grip of fellowship; never again will his/her eyes light with fraternal greetings and comradeship; never again will he/she speak of the good in a Brother or Sister. This body, that was the temple of our Brother's/Sister's spirit, is about to return to the earth from which it came." ***(The following words of committal shall be omitted when a Minister is officiating.)*** "We now commit his/her body to the grave."

"May God speed the flight of our Brother's/Sister's soul to the haven of eternal peace and rest leaving only the memory of his/her life's activities. Yet, in the everblooming gardens of our memories, while our lives last, will there spring forth sweet memories of our past associations with our departed Brother/Sister."

"Good deeds are never childless; a noble life is never lost; a virtuous action does not die;

all that he nobly did is living still. The record of our Brother's/Sister's life is not lost, but lives forever in the hearts and minds of his/her loved ones and his/her Brothers and Sisters."

"Let us, then, fix in our minds this final scene. Man is born to live a few short years and then pass through that great change known as death. Each, in turn, mounts the stage of human action, plays many parts in the ever-changing drama of life, and then passes into the tomb of eternal silence and is known no more, forever, among man."

"So it was in the beginning and ever shall be."

***(LORD'S PRAYER REPEATED BY ALL.)***

"Farewell our Brother/Sister. We will miss you keenly in our councils and our gatherings. May the Great Author and Giver of Life grant unto you light and peace in the world beyond"

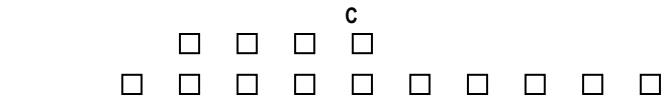
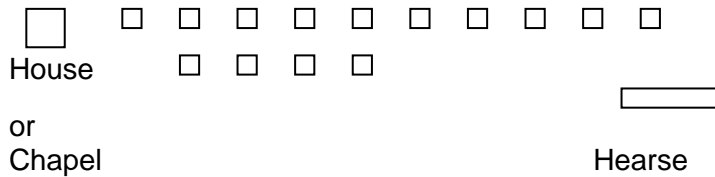
***(Chaplain places a bouquet on the casket followed by pallbearers and members as per directions).***

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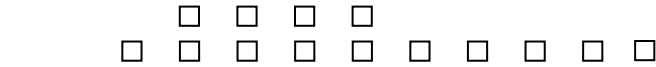
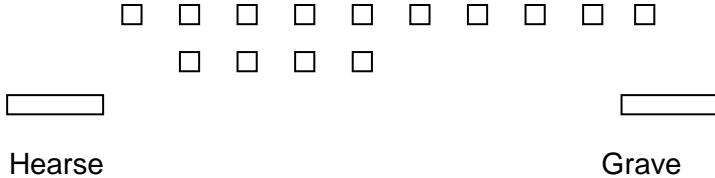
## POSITIONS AND INSTRUCTIONS FOR FUNERAL SERVICES

*(The following positions and instructions should be observed throughout the various stages of either the Funeral Service Ritual or the Funeral Service for Chapel Use. Where bracketed numeral instructions are printed in each service.)*

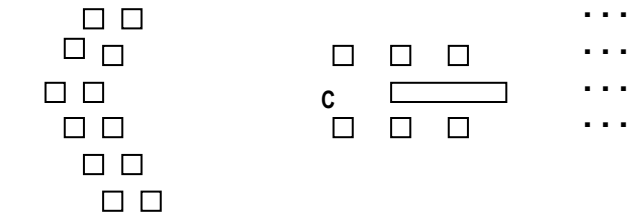
1.



2.



3.



*Denotes Brother/Sister Elks all wearing bouquets of purple flowers or sprig of green on coat lapels. Chaplain same.*

*C Denotes Chaplain*

*... Denotes friends*

4. *Chaplain with three flowers in hand at each (4) drops purple or white flower on casket.*

5. *Chaplain says, "Rest in Peace," and deposits his/her lapel bouquet on casket,*

*followed by pallbearers, who deposit bouquets, repeat "Rest in Peace" and pass away from the grave-side. Then all Brother/Sister Elks pass by the grave and deposit bouquets.*

*Chaplain is last to leave the grave.*

*Lapel bouquets should be placed on lapel as Elks gather for the service and worn til deposited on the casket.*

*NOTE: Position of all Elks during 1, 2, and 3, while standing. Right hand over heart and left hand holding hat slightly off head. In a storm leave hat on and touch left temple with left hand fingertips. Wear white gloves if obtainable.*

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## **FUNERAL SERVICE FOR CHAPEL USE**

*(This service shall not be used in whole or in part when a Minister is officiating. Otherwise, this service may be performed by the Chaplain or other Brother/Sister designated by the Exalted Ruler, bearing in mind that the present Ceremony may be adapted to suit each occasion with a little care and attention. The Fez will be removed only when entering a church, or any other building in which a funeral or memorial service is being conducted, and will remain removed until leaving the church or other building. When attending a funeral or memorial service inside a building, an Elk will remove his/her Fez, replacing it only when they leave the building.)*

**CHAPLAIN:** "We as Elks, have gathered here, today, to pay our last and sad respects to the memory of a departed Brother/Sister and to offer our sincere condolences, sympathy and assistance to his/her sorrowing family. Brother/Sister \_\_\_\_\_ has answered that last great roll-call and has departed upon that eternal journey which each of us must sooner or later undertake. Ladies and Gentlemen please rise. Members of the family may remain seated."

"It is the hour when all Elks cease from their labours and again renew within their hearts their obligations to each other, with special regard to our absent and departed Member. Elkdom, as an Order, seeks ever to exemplify the noble traits of the stately Elk, from which it takes its name. The Elk, unlike the more ferocious animals of the forest, while fleet of foot and ever ready to fight in defence of its weaker members, is naturally docile and lives in peace with all mankind. So we teach all to be quick to hear and strong in responding to the calls of fraternal service such as the circumstances of life may bring upon us. We are bound together by the ties of a greater fraternity which seeks to make life sweeter, people better and the world happier."

The faults of our Member we write upon the sands of the sea, where they may be quickly effaced and forgotten, while his/her virtues we inscribe upon the tablets of our hearts so that we may realize in a larger degree the living meaning of the Brotherhood of Man."

"Never again will our Member pass through the portals of our Lodge; never again will his/her hand be extended in the grip of fellowship; never again will his/her eyes light with fraternal greetings and comradeship; never again will he/she speak of the good in a Brother or Sister. Within this casket lie his/her mortal remains. This body, that was the temple of our Brother's/Sister's spirit, is about to return to the earth from which it came. We now commit his/her body to the grave."

" 'Earth to earth: Ashes to ashes: Dust to dust.' May God speed the flight of our Brother's/Sisters soul to the haven of eternal peace and rest - to the vale of the great hereafter - leaving only the memory of his/her life's activities. Yet, in the everblooming gardens of our memories, while our lives last, will there spring forth sweet memories of our past associations with our departed Brother/Sister."

"Good deeds are never childless; a noble life is never lost; a virtuous action does not die; all that he/she nobly did is living still. The record of our Brother's/Sister's life is not lost, but lives forever in the hearts and minds of his/her loved ones and his/her Brothers and Sisters."

“Let us, then fix in our minds this final scene. Man is born to live a few short years and then pass through that great change known as death. Each, in turn, mounts the stage of human action, plays many parts in the ever-changing drama of life, and then passes into the tomb of eternal silence and is known no more, forever, among man.”

“The paths of glory lead but to the grave...So it was in the beginning and ever shall be...”

“To the living whom this Brother/Sister leaves behind to perform this solemn duty, this impressive event preaches a profound and impressive sermon to each attentive soul, and serves to engrave yet deeper upon the heart of each and every Brother/Sister the exalted teachings and admonitions of Elkdom.”

***(The Lord's Prayer, repeated by all Brothers and Sisters.)***

***(At this point a brief eulogy to the deceased should be given (Optional) by the Chaplain, the Exalted Ruler, or particular friend of the deceased - mentioning the date the deceased became a Member of the Order, his/her particular function or work for the Order or any pertinent facts of his/her life.)***

**CHAPLAIN:** “To those beloved ones who are left behind to mourn the passing of our Brother/Sister, we wish to extend to them our deepest sympathy, for we, too, feel their great loss.”

“May they find consolation in the words of the Master, which are taken from the 14<sup>th</sup> Chapter of the Book of St. John, when He said:”

“ ‘Let not your heart be troubled; ye believe in God, believe also in me.’ ”

“ ‘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. ’ ”

“ ‘And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. ’ ”

“ ‘I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me. ’ ”

“ ‘Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you; not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. ’ ”

**CHAPLAIN:** “Let us repeat together the 23<sup>rd</sup> Psalm.” ***(All Brothers/Sisters repeating.)***

Hymn or Solo ***(Optional)***

**CHAPLAIN:** “Let us pray.”

“O Loving Father of all the souls who passed through this earthly vale of tears; who watched over all with tender care and earnest prayer; who loved the sunshine and the flowers and the beautiful things of life; who never spared Himself to humanity, inspire us with a deeper understanding of Thy way of wisdom; that we may come to Thee in faith and lay our sorrows at Thy feet, believing that Thou will heal the wounds of life; that when our loved ones are taken

from us, we may meet them again in the wondrous hope of eternal tomorrow.”

“For in Thy perfect love shall every shadow of death be swept aside, and the beautiful memories of those we have lost remain with us 'til we too reach that golden shore where their smiles mingle in the sunshine of Thine eternal love.”

“In this hope, O Great Exalted Ruler of the Universe, may we find comfort, rest and peace - today, tomorrow and forever. Amen.”

***(At this point the Chaplain resumes his/her seat. The Organ or piano (softly) plays the strains of "Auld Lang Syne" during which all Brothers/Sisters file out of the Chapel and assume Position (1).)***

***(The following is that part of the service designed for delivery at the grave-side, those taking part to assume Position (2) and (3) - see instruction.)***

**CHAPLAIN: *(From Ecclesiastes, Chapter 12.)***

“Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them.”

“While the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars, be not darkened, nor the clouds return after the rain.”

“In the day when the keepers of the house shall tremble, and the strong men shall bow themselves, and the grinders cease because they are few, and those that look out of the windows be darkened.”

“And the doors shall be shut in the streets, when the sound of the grinding is low, and he shall rise up at the voice of the bird, and all the daughters of music shall be brought low.”

“Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because men goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets.”

“Or ever the silver cord be loosened, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.”

“Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”

**CHAPLAIN:** “For as it hath pleased Almighty God to take unto Himself the soul of our beloved Brother/Sister we therefore commit his/her body to the ground – ‘Earth (4) to earth: Ashes (4) to ashes: Dust (4) to dust - there to await until the final trumpet shall sound on the resurrection morn.’”

(Note: For cremation the following should be used - "To the elements (4): Ashes (4) to ashes: Dust (4) to dust," etc.)

**CHAPLAIN:** “Almighty God, into the arms of Thy love and mercy we commend the soul of our beloved Brother/Sister. May light perpetual shine upon him/her, until the morning breaks and the shadows flee away.”

“May we realize our Father that we are but Thy children; and may we so live that when our day is done, we may face the eternal change that comes to us all in faith and confidence through Thy redeeming grace and power.”

“May the peace of God which passeth all understanding abide with us now and forevermore. Amen.”

“Farewell, our Brother/Sister. We shall miss you keenly from our gatherings and our councils. May the Great Author and Giver of Life grant unto you peace and light in the world beyond.”

**CHAPLAIN:** “Rest in peace.” **(See instructions (5).)**