

Maryland Masonic Book of Public Ceremonies



MARYLAND MASONIC MANUAL OF PUBLIC CEREMONIES

Prepared by Request of

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This Manual documents the existing Maryland Masonic Public Ceremonies that are presently used by Maryland Masonic Lodges. The publication of this Manual is to ensure all Maryland Lodges conduct these ceremonies in accordance with the approved procedure as approved by the Most Worshipful Grand Master and the Grand Lecturer. Also, this Manual will provide each Deputy Grand Lecturer with the procedure to be used during his school and at rehearsals.

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SECTION 1

MARYLAND MASONIC CREED

The Masonic Creed is the only Creed to be recited during the opening of all Maryland Lodges. Also, if displayed, no other wording is permitted.

I, as a Freemason, believe in the Fatherhood
of God and the Brotherhood of man.

I will do unto others as I would have them do unto me.

I pledge my loyalty to the Government of the
United States of America,

a Government of the people, by the people, and for the people
and will not countenance disloyalty on the part of others.

Freemasonry is founded upon these principles
and I will use my utmost effort
to preserve them for posterity.

So Mote It be!

SECTION 2

EXAMINATION OF A VISITOR TO YOUR LODGE

The legal information to enable one Mason to vouch for another may be acquired by:

- Sitting in the presence of the visitor in question in a Regular Constituted recognized Lodge of Masons.
- An examination authorized by the proper officer of a Lodge.
- One Mason definitely stating (vouching), whom he knows to be a Mason that he vouches for a third person, who is also present, to be a Mason.

No Mason can legally acquire the necessary information to vouch for another by sitting with him in any other body than a Lodge of Ancient Craft Masons, nor unless the Brother vouched for is actually present.

No avouchment can by be made using any form of electronic media. Such as: telephone, internet or by using any other electronic device.

The presence of one in a Masonic public procession or ceremony does not furnish sufficient evidence of valid Masonic standing, to warrant an avouchment.

Entered Apprentices and Fellow Crafts visiting another Lodge should be accompanied by a Master Mason who can legally vouch for them.

Conducting the Examination:

The examination must consist of three Master Masons selected by the Worshipful Master. Only one visitor may be examined at a time.

Items required conducting the examination:

- Holy Bible
- Book of recognized Lodges
- Copy of the Tyler's oath
- Lodge visitor slip

- The visitor's current dues card

Examination Process:

- Require the visitor fill out a visitor's slip with all requested information and have his signature affixed to it.
- Check the dues card to ensure it is one of the current year and from a recognized lodge.
- Examine and compare the signatures on the dues card and the visitors slip.
- Have the three committee members and the visitor each hold a corner of the Holy Bible with their right hand and recite the Tyler's oath in unison. When completed all should kiss the Holy Bible.
- Each member of the committee should ask the visitor questions with the esoteric work of a regular lodge until all are satisfied as to the legitimacy of the visitor. The final action is for the committee to receive the Grand Masonic Word from the visitor.
- The visitor's slip should be signed by a member of the examination committee and given to the Senior Deacon to be used for the visitors' introduction during the meeting.

The Tyler's Oath:

I (name in full) do hereby and hereon solemnly swear that I have been regularly initiated as an Entered Apprentice, passed to the degree of Fellow Craft, and raised to the sublime degree of Master Mason.

I am now a member of _____Lodge No.____ under the jurisdiction of (state).

I do not stand suspended or expelled from any regular lodge and know of no just cause why I should be so dealt with. (Kiss the Bible).

SECTION 3

LODGE BALLOTING PROCEDURE

General Notes:

The Worshipful Master calls on the Senior Deacon to prepare the ballot box; the Junior Steward takes his staff and proceeds to the Preparation Room door. (He should allow no one to enter or leave the Lodge room while the ballot is in progress). The Senior Deacon presents the ballot box to the Senior Warden and Junior Warden then places it upon the altar. (It is permissible to take the ballot box to immobile members on the sidelines but the Worshipful Master should not include these in his instructions to the Senior Deacon, unless he had not communicated quietly with him earlier or during the presentation of preparing the ballot box).

After the Senior Deacon places the ballot box on the altar he moves to the north side of the altar, facing the ballot box, grounds his staff and maintains that position during the balloting process. After all members have voted, the Worshipful Master will direct the Junior Deacon to relieve the Tyler for the purpose of voting on petitions only. The Junior Deacon unseals the door and relieves the Tyler. The Tyler comes into the Lodge Room, seals the door, approaches the altar, where after the Worshipful Master has explained the purpose of the ballot to the Tyler, he votes and returns to his station and relieves the Junior Deacon. While the Tyler is exchanging places with the Junior Deacon, the Senior Steward (who has already voted) replaces the Junior Steward at the preparation door and allows the Junior Steward to advance and vote who then returns to his regular station. After the Junior Steward has voted the Senior Deacon approaches the altar and votes. The Senior Deacon is always the last member to vote. When announcing the results of the ballot, should the Junior and Senior Wardens report the ballot differently, (One fair and the other foul), the Worshipful Master shall say, immediately after the Senior Warden has made his announcement, "Brother Senior Deacon, present the ballot to the South, West and East for inspection. Please read "Balloting Notes" prior to any balloting.

BALLOTING ON A PETITION:

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Secretary, is the committee on the petition of Mr. _____ ready to report?

SECRETARY - Worshipful Master, we have a report of the committee, is favorable or (unfavorable).

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, you have heard the report of your committee on the petition of Mr. _____ for the three degrees of Masonry. If there is no objection we will proceed to ballot. (*) Brother Senior Deacon, prepare the ballot box.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, we are about to ballot on the petition of Mr. _____ for the three Degrees of Masonry; all in favor of his election will deposit a white ball; those opposed, a black cube. Present the ballot box to the West, South and place it upon the Altar.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Members of _____ Lodge ___ will advance and vote. (*)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Deacon, have all members present voted?

SENIOR DEACON - Worshipful Master, all members present have voted.

(If for any reason the Senior Deacon identifies a Brother who refuses to vote the Worshipful Master directs the Senior Deacon to conduct that Brother from the Lodge room and returns to the Lodge. The Worshipful Master declares the Lodge at ease and goes to the Brother who has refused to vote and informs him of his violation of the constitution. If the Brother continues to refuse to vote the Worshipful Master returns to the Lodge and declares the Lodge at labor and completes the balloting process).

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Present the ballot to the South, West and East for inspection.

(If the ballot is to be repeated, begin at the 5th section above and proceed as before).

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The ballot being fair in the South, West and East, I declare Mr. _____ duly elected to receive the three Degrees of Masonry. (If foul, I declare Mr. _____ duly rejected). (*) So ordered Brother Secretary.

BALLOTING ON PROFICIENCY

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, you have heard the examination of Brother(s) _____ (*) Brother Senior Deacon, prepare the ballot box.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, we are about to ballot on the proficiency of Brother(s) _____ in the catechism of the degree; all in favor of his (their) election will deposit a white ball; those opposed, a black cube.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Deacon present the ballot box to the West, South and place it upon the Altar.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Members of _____ Lodge _____ will advance and vote. (*)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Deacon, have all members present voted?

SENIOR DEACON - Worshipful Master, all members present have voted.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Present the ballot to the South, West and East for inspection.

(If the ballot is to be repeated, begin at the 5 the section above and proceed as before).

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The ballot being fair in the South, West and East, I declare Brother(s)_____duly proficient in the _____ Degree. (If foul) I declare Brother(s) duly rejected. (*) So ordered Brother Secretary.

Balloting Notes:

- All members present must vote.
- Five Black Cubes are required to reject a proficiency examination.
- The Tyler is to be invited into the Lodge to vote on petitions for initiation and affiliation only.
- The failure of any member to vote or the departure of a member from the Lodge room does not invalidate the ballot. (See page 79 of the Masonic Digest, "Invalidation").
- A Master Mason who stands examination in open Lodge as to his proficiency in the Master Mason Degree shall ballot on his own proficiency.
- There can be no discussion of the ballot before, during or after it is taken, and no remarks upon the merits of a candidate are ever admissible in open Lodge.
- The ballot upon the petition for the three degrees or affiliation must be unanimous.
- When balloting for reprimand, suspension, expulsion and findings on charges, a white ball and a black cube for every member present must be in the ballot box.
- After a ballot has been begun it cannot be suspended or postponed but must be carried through to completion.
- The only information that a candidate is entitled to or a member of the Lodge is privileged to give, is contained in the words "elected" or "rejected".
- When the Master declares a candidate rejected, such declaration is final and cannot be set aside.

SECTION 4

MASONIC COURTESY

The Gavel:

As a part of the ritual for receiving distinguished guests, the Worshipful Master hands his gavel to only the reigning Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, and if the Deputy Grand Master is officially performing the duties of the Grand Master.

Invitation to the Grand Master:

Should the Lodge desire a visit from the Grand Master for any occasion, he must be invited via a personal letter giving him a choice of dates if possible. A Lodge Communication, printed notice or oral request, will not be considered a bona fide invitation.

Grand Master in Lodges:

Should the Most Worshipful Grand Master visit the subordinate Lodge, the Tyler ascertains the wish of the Grand Master to be received and gives the alarm. When the door is opened it must remain open until the Grand Master enters the Lodge. The Grand Marshal, acting Grand Marshal or, in their absence the Tyler announces sufficiently loud for all to hear “Brother _____, The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland.” The Worshipful Master raises the Lodge. The Senior Deacon immediately goes to the door where both Deacons form an arch of crossed staffs and escorts the Most Worshipful Grand Master to the Alter where he is welcomed by the Worshipful Master, given Grand Honors and invited to the East to which he is escorted by the north side of the Lodge under crossed staffs by the Deacons. The gavel is presented to the Grand Master with the left hand while greeting him with a handshake with the right. The Worshipful Master then removes his hat, and when the Lodge is seated by the Grand Master sits at his left in the East. (The only occasion two hats are worn at the same time in Lodge is while the Worshipful Master is receiving the Grand Master). After any remarks the Grand Master cares to make, he may return the gavel to the Worshipful Master, remove his hat and sits with the Worshipful Master in the East or elsewhere in the Lodge as he may desire. The Worshipful Master replaces his hat as he accepts the gavel from the Grand Master.

Should the Grand Master be accompanied by his Grand Line Officers the Marshal in his announcement adds “and Grand Lodge Officers.” The Grand Lodge Officers act as an escort to the Grand Master entering in double file and after saluting the East line up on the North and South sides of the Lodge until the Grand Master is properly received and they are dismissed by him. Should the Grand Master desire to preside, the Worshipful Master may be seated in the East if the Grand Master wishes in which case the Grand Master will designate the proper seat.

Deputy Grand Master in the Lodge:

Should the Deputy Grand Master visit a Lodge he should be announced as “Brother____, Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Masons of Maryland.” The Lodge is raised as he enters. After being cordially welcomed at the Altar, he is invited to approach the East which he does by way of the south side of the Lodge. However, should the Grand Master be out of the State or be incapacitated and the Deputy Grand Master visits a Lodge by order of or fulfilling the duties of Grand Master, he is received as being the Grand Master except that he is not escorted under crossed staffs and is not given Grand Honors. In being thus received as Grand Master he is addressed as “Most Worshipful Grand Master.”

Grand Inspectors in the Lodge:

The Lodge should be raised as the Grand Inspector enters the Lodge unescorted. When he arrives at the Altar he is welcomed by the Worshipful Master. After applause by the brethren, he is invited to the East which he approaches by the south side. Before the meeting is closed the Grand Inspector is called upon for his remarks. It is at this time that he expresses the greetings of our Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland.

Past Grand Masters in Lodge:

Past Grand Masters visiting a Lodge are announced by the Tyler. The Worshipful Master raises his Lodge and has the Past Grand Master approach the Altar where the Past Grand Master salutes the East. He is welcomed by the Worshipful Master, Grand Honors are given, and he is invited to the East which he does by way of the north side.

All Other Grand Lodge Officers:

All other Grand Lodge Officers enter a Lodge as any regular or visiting member. No special greeting is required.

Visiting Worshipful Masters:

The Worshipful Master of another Lodge, paying your Lodge a visit, should be introduced by the Senior Deacon when he announces all visitors to rise and remaining standing until recognized by the Worshipful Master.

Grand Masters of Other Grand Jurisdictions:

Should the Grand Master of another Grand Jurisdiction visit your Lodge without prior notice he may be introduced to the Lodge while at the Altar. Should he visit by invitation and it is desired to receive him with honors the Grand Master of Maryland must be invited to be present and receive him. If the Grand Master cannot attend, it is within his power to designate some one to represent him and to receive the distinguished guest with Grand Honors as accorded a Past Grand Master of Maryland.

Attending Church as a Lodge:

A Lodge may attend Divine Service without being opened in due form as a Masonic Lodge. However, if the Lodge has been opened as an official meeting for the express purpose of attending a Church Service, the members and visiting Master Masons proceed from the Lodge to the Church double file wearing jewels and aprons, in the following order:

Tyler (with drawn sword) and Marshal (with baton)
Stewards (with staffs)
Master Masons
Senior and Junior Deacons
Secretary and Treasurer
Past Masters
Senior and Junior Wardens
Worshipful Master and Chaplain

At the Church entrance the Marshal halts the procession and with the Tyler opens ranks proceeding through the line until reaching the Worshipful Master and

Chaplain, then turning and leading the Worshipful Master and Chaplain followed by the Officers and the Brethren in reverse order into the Church. The Marshal seats the Brethren and takes his seat. Upon retiring, the Marshal and Tyler lead followed in the original order as above and upon reaching the exit of the Church follow the same reverse order procedure as at the Church. Should the Grand Master or Past Grand Masters or other Grand Lodge elective officers attend they should be escorted by the senior Past Master or Past Masters and follow the Wardens in the procession. Visiting Worshipful Masters should precede the Past Masters of the lodge or be escorted by them. Should the Lodge not be open, aprons and jewels may be worn but a simple procession is formed, led by the Tyler and Marshal followed by the Worshipful Master and Chaplain, Senior and Junior Wardens and others in order. In leaving the Church the same procedure is followed. Should ladies be included in the procession, aprons and jewels are not worn.

SECTION 5

MASONIC BURIAL AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

Every Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft and Master Mason affiliated and in good standing at the time of his death is entitled to a Masonic Memorial or Burial Service. At the beginning of his term in office, the Worshipful Master shall open a Lodge of Sorrow, which shall be closed at the conclusion of his term of office. Memorial and Burial Services shall be conducted under the Lodge of Sorrow and in compliance with the ritual established by the Committee on Work. A Memorial or Burial Service may be conducted for an unaffiliated Mason upon dispensation by the Grand Master. The family of the deceased brother is to be given the choice of service desired; either may be requested, but not both. Detailed regulations may be found in Article XVI, Section 9-B, of the Constitution of the Grand Lodge of A.F. & A.M. of Maryland. The proper dress to be worn at a Masonic Funeral is black or dark clothing, black shoes, white gloves, a black hat and a plain white apron. The Master's gavel, the Deacons' and Stewards' rods, the Tyler's sword, and the Marshal's baton, if used, should be suitably trimmed with black ribbon. The officers of the Lodge should wear their respective jewels and aprons. Grand Officers and Past Officers of Grand or constituent Lodges may also wear their official jewels and aprons.

LODGE SERVICE

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - My Brethren, in a little while, as it hath happened to our Brother to whose memory we do honor, so will it happen unto each of us; and we, like him, shall be gathered unto our fathers. In the midst of life we are in death, and the wisest knoweth not what a day may bring forth. What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death?

SENIOR WARDEN - Man's days are as grass; as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth. For the wind passeth over it, and it is gone; and the place thereof shall know it no more.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Man walketh in a vain shadow: he heapeth up riches, and cannot tell who shall gather them.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - What profit hath a man of all his labor which he taketh under the sun? One generation passeth away and another generation cometh; but the earth abideth always.

SENIOR WARDEN - All flesh alike shall perish; and man shall turn again unto dust. We are destroyed from morning to evening. Our days are passed, our purposes are broken off, even the thoughts of our hearts.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Our light also will be put out, and the spark of our fire will cease to shine; the light will be dark in our tabernacle, and our candle will be put out with us.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Lord, make us to know our end, and the measure of our days, that we may know how frail we are.

SENIOR WARDEN - Like as a father pitieth his children, so the Lord pitieth them that love Him. For he knoweth our frame; he remembereth that we are dust.

JUNIOR WARDEN - The eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous, and His eyes are opened unto their cry. The Lord redeemeth the Soul of His servants; and none of them that trust in Him shall be made desolate.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Enlighten, O Lord, those who sit in darkness and in the valley of the shadow of death.

SENIOR WARDEN - The Lord is our God forever; He will be our guide, even unto death.

JUNIOR WARDEN - We commit ourselves to Thy loving kindness and tender mercies.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - When our Brother died, he carried nothing away with him; he fulfilled his destiny; naked he came into the world, and naked he has departed out it. Hear then the conclusion of the whole matter:

It is the Lord only that can give, and the Lord that hath taken away.
Blessed be the name of the Lord.

CHAPLAIN - Let us pray. Our Father who art in Heaven, Thou givest Thy graces and Thy favors by the measures of Thine own mercies, and in proportion to our necessities. It hath pleased Thee to call the Soul of our Brother from the prison of the body, and our hearts are sorrowful and very heavy. Look upon us, and upon those whom this death has more sadly bereaved and distressed in mercy and pity! Support them by the strength of Faith in all calamities, and refresh them with the comforts of a holy hope in all sorrows! Let not our weakness make us sin in thought against Thee, nor any miseries of this world vex us into repining's and impatience. Unto those who were of the household of our Brother, and are not yet comforted, make good Thy promise that they who sow in tears shall reap in joy. Strengthen them to bear this great misfortune; and let Time, Thy great comforter; soon heal the heart-wounds that now seem unto them incurable! All help cometh of Thee; for Thou preservest them that are true of heart. From Thee flow all comfort and consolation. Help us to walk in the light of Thy favor, and in the paths of Thy commandments. Surely Thou, in Thy perfectness, dost pity our Sins as well as our Sorrows and wilt forgive when we penitently confess our errors. Thou hast given us sadness and sorrows, chastening us thereby with a wholesome discipline, and procuring for us the occasion for the exercise of all those virtues whereby we may become acceptable to Thee. We are weak and feeble, and easily led astray from the right path. Be Thou our strength and our guide. It is not for us, O our Father, to intercede with Thee for our Brother whom Thou has taken from us. He also is one of Thy children; and Thou wilt judge him tenderly and mercifully. Prosper our works to Thy glory and to all our innocent purposes; preserve us from sin, and keep us in peace and holiness, and help us to serve Thee in thankfulness and obedience all the days of our pilgrimage; and after we have performed our allotted destiny here below, take us to dwell with Thee forever in accordance with Thy Holy Will. Amen.

ALL - So mote it be.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - We will now proceed to the place of burial, where the service will be concluded.

FORMATION IN PROCESSION

The following order should be observed, where a procession from the home, Funeral Home or church to the cemetery is held.

TYLER, with a Drawn Sword
STEWARDS, with White Rods
MUSICIANS

(If they are Masons, otherwise they follow the Tyler)

Master Masons
Secretary and Treasurer
Senior and Junior Wardens
Past Masters
Worshipful Masters
Senior and Junior Deacons

(With Rods supporting the W.M.)

The Clergy - At the head of the Grave
The Body
Pall Bearers - Located on each side of the Grave
Mourners – Located at the foot of the Grave

Where a formation is required only from the home, funeral home or church to the hearse and at the cemetery from the hearse to the grave, then the following order should be observed:

The Clergy
Worshipful Master
Chaplain
The Body

As the body is borne through the line of Officers and Members, and the Wardens, Secretary, Treasurer, Deacons and Members will follow the Pall Bearers in double file in the order named. If the Lodge goes otherwise than in procession, the Sword and Rods are omitted.

FORMATION OF THE LODGE AT THE GRAVE

The Lodge will form a square around the place of burial, leaving the space open between the mourners and the grave, with the officers in the following places:

Worshipful Master at the head of the grave.

Chaplain on his left.

Deacons on right and left, back of Worshipful Master

Senior Warden at foot of grave.

Junior Warden on his right.

Stewards on right and left, back of Wardens

The coffin supported above the grave ready to be lowered.

GRAVESIDE SERVICE

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, we are assembled for the purpose of paying the last tribute of respect to our departed Brother. Of all God's creatures, man is the only one that knows he must die. Death is the profound mystery of the ages. Its hand stills the pulse of the young while the dew is yet sparkling in the morning of life; it strikes us down in our prime when the sun at meridian is the beauty and glory of the day; it lulls to sleep the aged as their gaze is fixed on the golden sunset or the twilight gloom. No man knoweth the hour; all expect it; none escape it. My Brethren, let us make our supplication to Him who doeth all things well.

CHAPLAIN - Let us pray. Almighty and most merciful God, in whom we live and move and have our being; Thou art the consolation of the sorrowful, and dost not willingly grieve nor afflict the children of men. Look down we beseech Thee, on Thy servants whose joy is turned into mourning, and according to the multitude of Thy tender mercies, be pleased to uphold, strengthen and comfort them, that they may not faint under thy Fatherly chastening. Give us patience and resolution to do good, and firmness to resist evil. Increase our trust in Thee, and pour upon us the comforting dew of Thy blessing. And when our work on earth is done, may we enter into that everlasting home which Thou hast prepared for those who love Thee! Amen.

ALL - So mote it be.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, as we mourn the loss of our Brother we reflect upon the uncertainty of life, the certainty of death, and the vanity of all earthly glory. Death and decay are written upon everything. It is but a span-a heartbeat-a breath-that divides the cradle from the grave; it is an arresting truth that as soon as we begin to live, that moment also we begin to die. The winds of adversity sweep over the soul and scatter the fairest blossoms of hope. Frailty and imperfection are incidents of our earthly pilgrimage; the Almighty fiat has gone forth-“dust thou art, and to dust shalt thou return.”

SENIOR WARDEN - Death levels all distinction: the monarch, before whom nations bow, and the beggar, who asks alms at his gate, are equals in death. Both are indebted to their mother earth for a common sepulcher, and gone are all the external glories of human dignity, the power of wealth, the dreams of ambition, the pride of intellect, or the charms of beauty when Nature is paid her just debt.

JUNIOR WARDEN - We labor here with sighs and weariness, and trembling hearts; often hopelessly and to no end. We are clothed with griefs, and lay our heads on thorny pillows, hiding away in our souls sorrows known only to ourselves; we quickly grow old and wither like frosted leaves, and become a part of the Great Past, which gives law to the Present and to the Future. The things which should survive us-our thoughts, our words, and our works, are more to the world than we ourselves. We pass away and are forgotten, but these will endure and will influence for good or evil the lives of those who follow us.

CHAPLAIN - Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth as a flower and is cut down; he fleeth also as a shadow and continueth not. Seeing his days are determined, the number of his months are with Thee; Thou hast appointed his bounds that he cannot pass; turn from him, that he may rest, till he shall accomplish his day. For there is hope of a tree if it be cut down that it will sprout again,

and that the tender branch thereof will not cease. But man dieth and wasteth away; yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he? As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up, so man lieth down, and riseth not up again till the Heaven shall be no more. Yet, o Lord! Have compassion on the children of Thy creation; administer them comfort in time of trouble, and save them with an everlasting salvation. Amen.

ALL - So mote it be.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*Holding the Apron.*) The Lambskin, or White Leather Apron, is an emblem of innocence and the Badge of a Mason. Let its pure and spotless surface be to us a perpetual reminder of purity in life and conduct, a never ending argument for nobler deeds, for higher thoughts, for purer actions. When at last our weary feet shall come to the end of life's toilsome journey; when from our nerveless grasp shall drop forever the working tools of life, may the record of our day and actions be as pure and as spotless as the fair emblem which I now lay above the breast of our departed Brother.

(The body is then lowered.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*Holding the Evergreen.*) The Evergreen is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the Soul. By it we are reminded of that nobler part of man which survives the grave, and which bears the nearest affinity to that Supreme Intelligence which pervades all Nature, and which teaches us we shall never, never die. In accordance with our custom, I now deposit this emblem in the grave with the body of our Brother. (*Evergreen to be deposited by the Worshipful Master only.*)

CHAPLAIN - Forasmuch as it hath pleased Almighty God, in His wise Providence to take out of the world the soul of our departed Brother, we therefore commit his body to the ground (*or crypt*)-earth to earth-ashes to ashes-dust to dust- looking for the general resurrection in the last day, and the life of the world to come. I heard a Voice from Heaven saying, "Write,

Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them.”

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, join with me in paying the last honors.

(All re-cover and give the funeral honors in unison, once.)

First Motion - (The arms are crossed on the breast, the right arm uppermost, and the open palms of the hands on the shoulders.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - We cherish his memory in our hearts.

Second Motion - (The arms are raised above the head, full length, slightly extended to the front, palms of the hands inward.)

SENIOR WARDEN - We commend his spirit to God who gave it.

Third Motion - (The arms are dropped full length, slightly extended to the front, palms of the hands up.)

JUNIOR WARDEN - And consign his body to the earth.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The will of God is accomplished.

ALL - So mote it be.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - To those who are left to mourn the loss of their loved one we extend our affectionate sympathy. May faith in our Heavenly Father bring you peace, hope and consolation. Not a sparrow falleth without His notice. The God of Glory reigneth; he holdeth the world in the hollow of his hand; he dwelleth in the hearts of men; he gathereth his children in love and joy; we sorrow today, we rejoice

tomorrow. The river of life flows through the valley of death to the sea of eternity.

CHAPLAIN - Let us pray. Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth, as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil; for thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OPTIONAL HYMN

“Nearer my God to Thee.”

Nearer, my God, to Thee Nearer to Thee,
E'en though it be a cross That raiseth me;
Still all my song shall be Nearer, my God, to Thee,
Nearer, my God, to Thee, Nearer to Thee!

CHAPLAIN - The peace that passeth all understanding rest and abide with you now and forever. Amen.

ALL - So mote it be.

MEMORIAL SERVICE REGULATIONS

As the memorial service remains a Masonic function, the opening of a Lodge of Sorrow by the Worshipful Master upon his installation is sanctioned, which Lodge shall be closed upon the termination as Worshipful Master.

Regular regalia, such as aprons, collars and white gloves, must be used at memorial services.

Should the family desire the memorial service in preference to the graveside service, the Lodge is still required to furnish pallbearers, if requested.

Please note: The Widows Pin should not be presented at this ceremony but at a near future date.

Masonic Memorial Service and Procession Alignment

Leading the Procession in double file (if space permits)

Tyler, Marshal, or Master of Ceremonies

Followed by:

Senior and Junior Wardens

Secretary and Treasurer

Past Masters

Visiting Past Masters

Grand Lodge Officers (If Present)

Senior and Junior Deacons

Senior and Junior Stewards

Other Officers

Most Worshipful Grand Master (if not present the Lodge Grand Inspector)

Chaplain and Worshipful Master

Upon reaching the casket the Worshipful Master and Chaplain will take their place at the head of the casket. The Chaplain will be at the right of the Worshipful Master. The Most Worshipful Grand Master and or the Grand Inspector will stand at the foot of the casket. When seating for all Masons is not available due to limited space, the Lodge Officers and other Masons in the procession should move to a space

which will not obstruct the view of those who are seated. Preferably retire to the rear of the room. The following order of preference applies:

1. Along one wall near the end of the casket
2. At the rear of the room
3. In hallway (Observing Complete Silence)
4. A combination of the above, to suit the space available

The ritual shall be performed exactly as in the Masonic Burial and Memorial Services ritual book.

At the conclusion of the service the Worshipful Master shall remove his hat and he and the Chaplain will approach the family to offer condolences. The Grand Master or the Grand Inspector will follow the Chaplain and give his condolences to the family on behalf of the Grand Master and the Grand Lodge. Please note no additional prayers are to be offered. The Masons present will remain in place. The Worshipful Master will replace his hat and with the Chaplain processes out the room. All Masons will follow in the same order as they entered. (Note: The Masons do not return to the casket they follow the Worshipful Master and Chaplain out of the room). Also, it should be noted that while assembling for the service talking should be done in a quiet manor in respect to those who are in the funeral home waiting for our service to begin.

MEMORIAL SERVICE

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Friends and Brethren, we who are Masons have assembled on this occasion to express our respect and esteem for our brother who has passed beyond our mortal sight and to share with those near and dear to him our belief in the immortality of the soul. In this time of sorrow, when we all need comfort and consolation, let us turn reverently to God who, in the midst of the trials and tribulations that are a part of life, can alone endue us with that quietness of spirit and that peace of mind and heart which the world can neither give nor take away. Let us pray.

CHAPLAIN - O God, our Father in Heaven: Thou art the giver of life and light and love, our help and solace in times of trial and sorrow. Thou

hast assured us that when we walk through the valley of the shadow of death, Thou art with us. Thy rod and Thy staff comfort us. Thou art our light and our salvation, our refuge and our strength in every time of trouble. We thank Thee for the life of our Brother. We thank Thee that he was one of our fellowship and that we were privileged to labor with him in the mystic tie of brotherhood. We are grateful to Thee for the precious memories of him which we shall always carry in our hearts. We thank Thee for all that he has meant to those who were near and dear to him through the ties of family and friendship. Most of all, we are grateful to Thee for teaching us that, while the body is mortal, the soul is immortal. Though the outward form we knew and loved be removed from our sight, we have the assurance that Thou hast taken to thyself his soul, which is the enduring essence of life. This conviction Thou hast implanted in us through Thy Holy Word, which is the Great Light of Masonry. We earnestly beseech Thee that this short time which we spend together may renew and strengthen our conviction and our hope. Let Thy peace abide with us now and lead us ever in the paths of righteousness. In Thy name we make our prayer. Amen.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - From time immemorial it has been the custom of Masons to assemble with the family and friends of a departed Brother to honor his memory and to voice their sympathy to those whom he loved and who loved him. The message we bring is one of the triumph of life over death, the conquest of hope over despair. Masonry has come down from the far past. It uses the tools of the builder's trade as emblems and symbols to teach Masons how to build character and moral stature. It teaches service to God, to a Brother, and to all mankind. It seeks constantly to build the temple of the soul and thus to fit us for that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Masonry is a fellowship that unites Masons in friendship and good will. It teaches the spiritual values of life that lie beyond the physical senses. Masonry confronts the facts of death with the greater Fact of Faith in the immortality of the soul. Masons believe sincerely that when life on earth comes to a close, the soul is translated from the imperfections of this mortal sphere to that all-perfect, glorious, and celestial Lodge above, where God, the Grand Architect of

the Universe, presides. With these truths and convictions our Brother was well acquainted. Though perfection of character is not of this world, yet we are persuaded that our Brother sought to live by these truths and principles of Masonry; that they sustained and supported him; and that by them his life was made richer, fuller, and more meaningful.

(If the Body is present, these words shall be used:)

When our Brother labored with us in Masonic attire, he wore a white apron which he was taught is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. By it he was constantly reminded of that purity of life and that rectitude of conduct so necessary to his gaining admission into the Celestial Lodge Above. He will now wear that Apron forever as the emblem of the virtues which it represents.

(Ordinarily the body is clothed with the apron. If it is not so clothed, the Master here lays the apron across the body. If there is no body the Master inserts the word “symbolically” after the words “He will now”.)

The evergreen is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded of the immortal soul of man which survives the grave and which will never, never die. In accordance with our custom, I now place this evergreen over the heart of our Brother.

(If the Body has been cremated, these words shall be used:)

When our brother labored with us in Masonic attire, he wore a white apron which he was taught is an emblem of innocence and the badge of a Mason. By it, he was constantly reminded of the purity of life and that rectitude of conduct so necessary to his gaining admission into that Celestial Lodge Above. His soul is now clothed with the emblem of that apron.

(Holding up the evergreen, the Master shall say:)

The evergreen is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded of the immortal soul of man which survives the grave and which will never, never die. In accordance with our custom, I now symbolically place this evergreen over the heart of our Brother.

(The Master may then place the evergreen in the back of the manual.)

And now to you who shared with our Brother the intimate ties of family and friendship, we tender our affectionate sympathy. Our hearts respond to your hearts in your grief. We trust that these affirmations of faith, in which our Brother shared, may speak to you and inspire you to live with hope and courage. We ask you always to remember that the God and Father of us all is a Loving God, a merciful God, a compassionate God whose ears are ever open to the cry of the afflicted. Let us pray.

CHAPLAIN - Eternal and Everlasting God, we look to Thee in faith and confidence, knowing that Thy love has power to bring comfort and consolation, even in this time of bereavement, to those near and dear to our Brother. Fill their hearts more and more with the blessed assurance of immortality and of Thy abiding love. Bless them and keep them, O Lord. Make Thy face to shine upon them and be gracious unto them. Lift up Thy countenance upon them and give them Thy peace. Amen.

SECTION 6

CLOSED INSTALLATION OF LODGE OFFICERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Deputy Grand Lecturer is required to ensure the Officers are properly proficient in the procedures for Lodges to conduct a closed installation for their members.
2. The Worshipful Master- elect must make arrangements with the Deputy Grand Lecturer to have a rehearsal prior to installation.
3. The Worshipful Master will open his lodge in the Master Mason Degree.
4. The Worshipful Master will conduct any necessary business then begin the Installation Ceremony in the usual manner.
5. A gavel may be presented to the newly installed Worshipful Master, following the Charge to the Worshipful Master. All other presentations should be made following final Proclamation or just before closing remarks at the end of the Installation. All other presentations such as: Past Master's apron and jewel should be made just before final remarks.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The officers of _____ Lodge No. _____ will assume their respective stations. Brother Junior Deacon, invite the Brethren in and close the door.

(The Worshipful Master opens his lodge in full Third Degree form as he would at all regular Master Mason meetings. After the lodge is opened normal business may be conducted prior to beginning the Installation. It is recommended that all business be kept at a minimum due to the length of the Installation Service.)

CEREMONY OF INSTALLATION

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - At the beginning of my term as Worshipful Master, I opened a Lodge of Sorrow. I now declare that Lodge of Sorrow closed. (*) So ordered Brother Secretary.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - I now dismiss all committees except those on petitions and the Audit Committee. (*) So ordered Brother Secretary.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, we will now proceed to install the officers of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term. Brother Secretary, read the names of the Officers to be installed and invested.

SECRETARY- (Reads the names and titles of the officers).

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Secretary, read the Certification of the Worshipful Master elect

SECRETARY- (Reads the certification) (After the Secretary has finished reading the names, Installing Officer stands up and remains standing until he leaves the East with the Honor Guard).

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Worshipful Master elect, Brother _____ for installation

(Presenter goes to West, removes Jewel from W.M. Elect and conducts him to the Altar. Jewel is placed at side of Altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the honor to present for installation Brother _____, Worshipful Master elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

(The presenter returns to his seat and the Worshipful Master-elect stands alone at the Altar)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Worshipful Master of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

W.M.-ELECT - It is Worshipful Master

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Previous to your investiture, it is necessary that you should signify your assent to those ancient charges and regulations which point out the duty of a Master of a Lodge.

1. You agree to be a good man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law.
2. You agree to be a peaceable subject, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside.
3. You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the supreme legislature.
4. You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrate, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men.
5. You agree to hold in veneration the original rulers and patrons of Masonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations; and to submit to the awards and resolutions of your brethren when convened, in every case consistent with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.
6. You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels, and to guard against intemperance and excess.
7. You agree to be cautious in carriage and behavior, courteous to your brethren, and faithful to your Lodge.
8. You promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance imposters, and all dissenters from the original plan of Masonry.
9. You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the art.

10. You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being, and his officers when duly installed; and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge, or General Assembly of Masons, that is not subversive of the principles and groundwork of Masonry.
11. You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry.
12. You promise a regular attendance on the committees and communications of the Grand Lodge, on receiving proper notice; and to pay attention to all the duties of Masonry, on convenient occasions.
13. You admit that no new Lodge shall be formed without permission of the Grand Lodge; and that no countenance be given to any irregular Lodge, or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, being contrary to the ancient charges of the Fraternity.
14. You admit that no person can be regularly made a Mason in, or made a member of any regular Lodge, without previous notice, and due inquiry into his character.
15. You agree that no visitors shall be received into your Lodge without due examination, and producing proper vouchers of their having been initiated in a regular Lodge.

These are the regulations of Free and Accepted Masons. Do you submit to these charges, and do you promise to support these regulations, as Masters have done in all ages before you?

W.M.-ELECT - I do, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, in consequence of your cheerful conformity to the charges and regulations of the Fraternity, you are now to be installed Worshipful Master of this Lodge, in full confidence of your care, skill and capacity to govern the same. You will place yourself at the Altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as the W.M. elect kneels)

W.M.-ELECT - I, _____, do solemnly swear, I will to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. _____ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kiss the Bible.)

(W.M. seats the lodge)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office and conducted to the East.

(The W.M. goes to the Altar, invests the W.M. elect with the Jewel of his office, and conducts him to the East)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The various implements of the Fraternity are emblematical of our conduct in life.

1. The Holy Writings, that great light in Masonry, will guide you to all truth; it will direct your paths to the temple of happiness, and point out to you the whole duty of man.
2. The Square teaches to regulate our actions by rule and line, and to harmonize our conduct by the principles of morality and virtue.
3. The Compasses teaches to limit our desires in every station, that, rising to eminence by merit, we may live respected, and die regretted.
4. The Rule directs, that we should punctually observe our duty; press forward in the path of virtue, and, neither inclining to the right nor to the left, in all our actions have eternity in view.
5. The Line teaches the criterion of moral rectitude, to avoid dissimulation in conversation and action, and will direct our steps to the path which leads to immortality.
6. The Book of Constitutions you are to search at all times. Cause it to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins.

7. You now receive in charge the Charter, by the authority of which this Lodge is held, which you are carefully to preserve and duly transmit to your successor in office.
 8. Lastly, you receive in charge the By-Laws of your Lodge, which you are to see carefully and punctually executed.
- Brother Marshal, you will make proclamation.

(The Marshal goes to the North side of the Lodge, next to the taper nearest the East, turns and faces the South)

MARSHAL - The Honor Guard will form on the north side of the Lodge, double file, facing the East.

(Make one circuit, and halt. The Marshal halts at his starting place and faces the South)

MARSHAL - Brethren, I am ordered to proclaim and do proclaim, that Brother _____, having been duly elected, is now about to be installed Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

(The lines will then be moved in front of and facing the East and give the Entered Apprentice Degree Due Guard and Sign and one clap)

MARSHAL - Brethren, I am ordered to proclaim and do proclaim, that Brother _____, having been duly elected, is now about to be installed Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

(The lines will then be moved in front of and facing the East as before and give the Fellowcraft Degree Due Guard and Sign and two claps)

MARSHAL - Brethren, I am ordered to proclaim and do proclaim, that Brother _____, having been duly elected, is now installed* Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. __ for the ensuing term. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

*(*Simultaneously, W.M. removes his hat and W.M. elect dons his)*

(The Honor Guard proceeds to the East as before and gives the Master Mason Degree Due Guard and Sign and three claps)

(Outgoing W.M. raises the Lodge and leaves the East joining the Honor Guard. The newly installed W.M. stands alone in the East)

(The Marshal leads the Honor Guard, then stands at the altar facing the West, and directs the Honor Guard to form parallel lines, one on the North and the other on the South side of the Lodge, facing the East)

MARSHAL- Honor Guard, inward face.

(Honor Guard turns and faces inward)

MARSHAL - Worshipful Master, behold your Lodge. Brethren, behold your Worshipful Master. Let us salute him with honors.

(All bow)

MARSHAL - Honor Guard dismissed.

(The W.M. seats the Lodge and remains standing to receive the charge)

CHARGE

Worshipful Master, having committed to your care the superintendence and government of the brethren who compose this Lodge, you cannot be insensible of the obligations which devolve on you as their head; nor of your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties annexed to your election. The honor, reputation and usefulness of your Lodge will materially depend on the skill and assiduity with which you manage its concerns; whilst the happiness of its members will be generally promoted in proportion to the zeal and ability with which you propagate the genuine principles of our institution. For a pattern of imitation, consider the great luminary of nature, which, rising in the East, regularly diffuses light and luster to all within its circle; in like manner it is your province to spread and communicate light and instruction to the brethren of your Lodge. Forcibly impress upon them the dignity and high importance of Masonry, and seriously admonish them never to disgrace it. Charge them to practice out of the Lodge, those duties which they have been taught in it; and by amiable, discreet and virtuous conduct, to convince mankind of the goodness of the institution, so that when any one is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burthened heart may pour out its sorrows; to whom distress may prefer its suit; whose hand is guided by justice, and his heart expanded by benevolence. In short, by a diligent observance of the by-laws of your Lodge, the constitutions of Masonry, and above all, the Holy Scriptures, which are given as a rule and guide to your faith, you will be enabled to acquit yourself with honor and reputation, and lay up a crown of rejoicing, which shall continue when time shall be no more.

(After the charge a gavel may be presented to the new W.M. All other gift presentations should be made following the final proclamation).

(After the gavel presentation, the W.M. may raise the Lodge and then call on the Chaplain to accompany him to the altar for prayer.

The W.M. raises the Lodge before leaving the East and seats the Lodge upon his return.)

THE SENIOR WARDEN

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Senior Warden-elect, Brother _____, for installation.

(Presenter goes to South, removes jewel from S.W.-elect and conducts him to the altar. Jewel is placed at side of altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for installation, Brother _____, Senior Warden-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Senior Warden of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

S.W.-ELECT - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will place yourself at the Altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as he kneels)

S.W.-ELECT - I _____, do solemnly swear, I will, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Senior Warden of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kisses the Bible)

(W.M. seats the Lodge when he stands)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the jewel of your office.

(Presenter places jewel on S.W.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The Level demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hope; and though distinctions among men are necessary to preserve subordination, yet no eminence of station should make us forget that we are brethren; for he who is placed on the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel, may be entitled to our regard; because a time will come, and the wisest knoweth not how soon, when all distinction, but that of goodness, shall cease; and death, the grand leveler of human greatness, reduce us to the same state. Your regular attendance on our stated meetings is essentially necessary; in the absence of the Master you are to govern this Lodge; in his presence you are to assist him in the government of it. I firmly rely on your knowledge of Masonry and attachment to the Lodge, for the faithful discharge of the duties of this important trust. — Look well to the West!

You will now be conducted to the West.

(S.W. is conducted to his station and sits)

THE JUNIOR WARDEN

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Junior Warden-elect, Brother _____ for installation.

(Presenter conducts J.W.-elect to the altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for installation, Brother _____, Junior Warden-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Junior Warden of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

J.W.-ELECT - It is Worshipful Master

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will place yourself at the altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as the J.W.-elect kneels)

J.W.-ELECT - I, _____, do solemnly swear I will, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Junior Warden of _____ Lodge No. _____ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kisses bible)

(W.M. seats the Lodge when he stands)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office.

(Presenter places Jewel on J.W.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations, to hold the scales of justice in equipoise, to observe the just medium between intemperance and pleasure, and to make our passions and prejudices coincide with the line of our duty. To you is committed the superintendence of the Craft during the hours of refreshment; it is therefore indispensably necessary that you should not only be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations, but carefully observe that none of the Craft be suffered to convert the purposes of refreshment into intemperance and excess. Your regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested; and I have no doubt that you

will faithfully execute the duties which you owe to your Lodge. — Look well to the South!

You will now be conducted to the South.

(J.W. is conducted to his station and remains standing and the S.W. rises. The Charge to the Wardens is delivered)

CHARGE

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, you are too well acquainted with the principles of Masonry to warrant any distrust that you will be found wanting in the discharge of your respective duties. Suffice it to mention, that what you have seen praiseworthy in others, you should carefully imitate; and what in them may have appeared defective, you should in yourselves amend. You should be examples of good order and regularity; for it is only by a due regard to the laws in your own conduct, that you can expect obedience to them from others. You are assiduously to assist the Master in the discharge of his trust, diffusing light and imparting knowledge to all whom he shall place under your care. In the absence of the Master you will succeed to higher duties; your acquirements must therefore be such that the Craft may never suffer for want of proper instruction. From the spirit which you have hitherto evinced I entertain no doubt that your future conduct will be such as to merit the applause of your brethren, and the testimony of a good conscience.

THE SECRETARY

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Secretary-elect, Brother _____, for installation.

(Presenter goes to Secretary's place, removes jewel and conducts him to the altar. Jewel is placed at side of altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for installation, Brother _____, Secretary-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Secretary of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

SECRETARY-ELECT – It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – You will place yourself at the altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as he kneels)

SECRETARY-ELECT - I, _____, do solemnly swear, I will, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Secretary of _____ Lodge No. ___ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kiss the Bible)

(W.M. seats the Lodge when he stands)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office. *(Presenter places Jewel on Secretary)* Brother _____, as Secretary of this Lodge it is your duty to observe the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure; to record the proceedings of the Lodge; to receive all moneys and pay them to the Treasurer. Your good inclination to Masonry and this Lodge, I hope, will induce you to discharge your office with fidelity, and by so doing, you will merit the

esteem and applause of your Brethren. You will now be conducted to your place.

(Secretary is conducted to his place and sits)

THE TREASURER

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, Present the Treasurer-elect, Brother _____, for installation.

(Presenter goes to Treasurer's place, removes Jewel and conducts him to the Altar. Jewel is placed at side of Altar)

PRESENTER – Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for installation, Brother _____, Treasurer-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Treasurer of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

TREASURER-ELECT - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will place yourself at the Altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as he kneels)

TREASURER-ELECT - I, _____ do solemnly swear, I will, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Treasurer of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kiss the Bible)

(W.M. seats the Lodge when he stands)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office. *(Presenter places jewel on Treasurer)* Brother _____ as Treasurer of this Lodge, it is your duty to receive all moneys from the Secretary, keep just and regular accounts of the same, and pay them out at the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure, with the consent of the Lodge. I trust, your regard for the Fraternity will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office. You will now be conducted to your place.

(Treasurer is escorted to his place and sits)

(If the Secretary and Treasurer have been re-elected, they may be installed together and the W.M. may use his own words of greeting in place of the charge to each)

THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR DEACONS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Senior and Junior Deacons for investiture.

(Presenter goes to Senior Deacon's place, removes jewel and takes the staff and conducts him to the altar. Presenter then goes to Junior Deacon's place, removes jewel and takes the staff and conducts him to the altar, S.D. on the north side and J.S. on the south side. Jewels and staffs are placed at side of altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brothers _____, and _____, as Senior and Junior Deacons of _____ Lodge No. _____

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been appointed Senior Deacon, and Brother _____, you have been appointed Junior Deacon of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

DEACONS - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the jewel of your office. (*Only jewel is presented*) Brothers _____ and _____, as Deacons of this Lodge, it is your province to attend on the Master and Wardens, and to act as their proxies in the active duties of the Lodge; such as in the reception of candidates into the different degrees of Masonry, the introduction and accommodation of visitors, and in the immediate practice of our rites. Those Rods*, as badges of your office, I entrust to your care, not doubting your vigilance and attention. You will now be conducted to your places.

*(*Present staffs)*

(S.D. and J.D. are conducted to their places and sit)

THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR STEWARDS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Senior and Junior Stewards for investiture.

(Presenter goes to the Senior Steward's place, removes jewel and takes staff and conducts him to the altar, then goes to the Junior Steward's place, removes jewel and takes staff and conducts him to the altar, S.S. on the North and J.S. on the South. Jewels and staffs are placed at side of altar.)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brothers _____ and _____ as Senior and Junior Stewards of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother, _____ you have been appointed Senior Steward and Brother _____, you have been appointed Junior Steward of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

STEWARDS - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the jewel of your office. *(Present jewels and staffs)* Brothers _____ and _____, as Stewards of this Lodge, the duties of your office are, to assist in the collection of dues and subscriptions, to keep an account of the Lodge expenses, to see that the tables are properly furnished at refreshment and that every brother is suitably provided for, and generally to assist the Deacons and other officers in performing their duties. Your regular and early attendance will afford the best proof of your zeal and attachment to the Lodge.

You will now be conducted to your places.

(S.S. and J.S. are conducted to their places and sit)

THE CHAPLAIN

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Chaplain for investiture.

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brother _____ as Chaplain of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been appointed Chaplain of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

CHAPLAIN - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office.

(Present Jewel.)

(The W.M. may address the Chaplain regarding his duties.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be conducted to your place.

(Chaplain is escorted to his place and sits.)

THE TYLER

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Tyler for investiture.

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brother _____, as Tyler of _____ Lodge No. _____

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been appointed Tyler of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

TYLER - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the jewel of your office. *(Present Jewel.)* As the sword is placed in the hands of the

Tyler*, to enable him to effectually guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and suffer none to pass or repass without permission from the Lodge, so it should admonish us to set a guard over our thoughts, a watch at our lips, post a sentinel over our actions, thereby preventing the approach of every unworthy thought or deed to our hearts and preserving our consciences void of offense towards God and towards man.

*(*Sword is place in Tyler's hands)*

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be conducted to your place.

(Tyler is conducted to a seat inside the door and sits)

CHARGE TO THE LODGE

Brethren of _____ Lodge, Such is the nature of our constitution that as some must of necessity rule and teach, so others must of course learn to submit and obey. Humility in both is an essential duty.

The officers who have been chosen to govern this Lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety, and the laws of the institution, to avoid exceeding the powers with which they are entrusted; and you are of a too generous disposition to envy their preferment. I therefore trust that you will have but one aim; to please each other, and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness.

Finally, my brethren, as this Fraternity has been formed and perfected in so much unanimity and concord, in which we greatly rejoice, so may it long continue. May you long enjoy every satisfaction and delight which disinterested friendship can afford. May kindness and brotherly affection distinguish your conduct as men and as Masons. Within your peaceful walls, may your children's children celebrate with joy and gratitude the transactions of this auspicious solemnity. And may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your Lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Marshal, you will make Proclamation.

(Marshal stands in front of the Altar)

MARSHAL - Brethren, I am ordered to proclaim and do proclaim, that the Officers of _____ Lodge No. ____ have been duly installed and invested. This Proclamation I make to the South, to the West and to the East; take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly. Worshipful Master, Proclamation has been made.

OPEN A LODGE OF SORROW

(Worshipful Master stands and raises the Lodge)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Warden, it is my order that a Lodge of Sorrow be now opened and stand open until closed by me at the conclusion of my term as Worshipful Master. You will report the same to the Junior Warden in the South, the Brethren having due notice thereof, may govern themselves accordingly.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brother Junior Warden, it is the order of the Worshipful Master that a Lodge of Sorrow be now opened and stand open until closed by him at the conclusion of his term as Worshipful Master. You will report the same to the Brethren, they having due notice thereof, may govern themselves accordingly.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren, you have heard the order of the Worshipful Master as communicated to me by the Senior Warden in the West. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - signs.

(All Brethren present make signs. The arms are crossed on the breast, the right is uppermost, and the palms of the hands on the shoulders.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - We will cherish their memory in our hearts.

(The arms are raised straight out 45° above the head, palms of the hands inward.)

SENIOR WARDEN - And commend their spirit to God who gave it.

(The Chaplain is escorted to the Altar, remains standing, and says:)

CHAPLAIN - Brethren, join me in a moment of silent prayer.

(Chaplain kneels.)

CHAPLAIN - May the peace that passeth all understanding rest and abide with you now and forever. Amen.

BRETHREN - So mote it be.

(Chaplain rises and is conducted to his place)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - I now declare a Lodge of Sorrow open. So ordered, Brother Secretary. (*)

CLOSING

(Presentation of the Past Master's Jewel and Apron and other gift presentations may be made during the Closing as attendees are called upon.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Warden, is there anything in the West claiming the attention of this Master Mason Lodge before we proceed to close?

SENIOR WARDEN - Nothing in the West, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything in the South, Brother Junior Warden?

JUNIOR WARDEN - Nothing in the South, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything on your desk, Brother Secretary?

SECRETARY - Nothing further on my desk, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything on your desk, Brother Treasurer?

TREASURER - Nothing on my desk, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything among the Brethren?

(Members, including Past Masters, may respond.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything among the visitors?

(Visitors may respond.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Are there any additional presentations to be made?

(Any additional presentations are to be made at this time.)

(The Worshipful Master makes his remarks and acknowledgements at this time. When he has concluded, he calls on the Grand Inspector.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Grand Inspector.

*(When the Grand Inspector has concluded, the Officers are raised.
**)*

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – (Proceeds to close his Lodge using the normal full form closing process.)

CHAPLAIN - May the blessing of heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons. May brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen.

BRETHREN - So mote it be.

(The Chaplain is conducted to his place and the Senior Deacon attends to his duties at the Altar and returns to his place. The tapers are extinguished and the Senior Warden lowers his Column.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - I now declare _____Lodge No. ____
Closed.(*)

SECTION 7

OPEN INSTALLATION OF LODGE OFFICERS

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. The Deputy Grand Lecturer is required to ensure the Officers are schooled in the procedures for Lodges to conduct an open installation for their members and guests. A Lodge will not be opened in the Master Mason degree and there will be no Lodge business transacted.
2. The Worshipful Master- elect must make arrangements with the Deputy Grand Lecturer to have a rehearsal prior to installation.
3. The Lodge shall be prepared prior to non-Masonic guest arrival. The Holy Bible will be open on the Altar with the Square and Compasses set as in the Master Mason degree. The tapers will be lit. Everything else in the Lodge will be set up in the same manner as in an open Lodge, except the national flag will be at the rear of the Lodge room. An announcement is to be made to ensure that due guards and signs are not given and that all cell phones and pagers are to be turned off.
4. The preface to the Installation will be read.
5. The Dispensation from the Grand Master will be read.
6. The flag will be presented in the usual manner.
7. The Chaplain will be conducted to the Altar in the usual manner for prayer.
(If the Chaplain uses his own prayer, the formal opening prayer shall follow it.)
8. The Worshipful Master will close his Lodge of Sorrow in the usual manner.
*(“At the beginning of my term as Worshipful Master, I opened a Lodge of Sorrow. I now declare that Lodge of Sorrow closed. [Gavel *] So ordered Brother Secretary.”)*
The Worshipful Master will dismiss all committees except those on petitions and the audit committee.
9. The certification of the Worshipful Master-elect will be read and the Secretary shall read the names of those officers to be installed and invested.
10. The Worshipful Master will then begin the Installation Ceremony in the usual manner.
11. All introductions of Officers to be installed will be made strictly in accordance with the ritual of the Grand Lodge of Maryland. (The Marshal of the Lodge, a Past Master, or someone whom the Officer being installed

- may request — provided he is a Master Mason — may do presentation of the officers.)
12. Only members of the Fraternity will be requested to respond to the gavel, except during the Flag Ceremony and during prayers.
 13. All Charges, with the exception of those to the Worshipful Master, Wardens, and the Charge to the Lodge, will be given by the installing Worshipful Master, except where tradition dictates otherwise, and if approved by the Deputy Grand Lecturer.
 14. When the Honor Guard approaches the East to give honors to the newly installed Worshipful Master, they shall use “Public Honors” (one clap; two claps; three claps).
 15. Immediately following the final Proclamation, the newly installed Worshipful Master will open his Lodge of Sorrow in the usual manner. Do not forget that the Chaplain uses only the prescribed prayer at the Altar. Do not forget the Declaration to the Lodge — “I now declare a Lodge of Sorrow open. So ordered Brother Secretary. [Gavel *]”
 16. A gavel may be presented to the newly installed Worshipful Master, following the Charge to the Worshipful Master. All other presentations should be made following the final Proclamation.

OPENING

*(Before any visitors are admitted to the Lodge room, the Lodge is to be set up as in the M.M. degree. The three tapers shall be lit and the Senior Warden’s Column shall be up. The door shall remain open during the entire ceremony; there shall be no raps on or at the door)
(W.M. stands)*

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The officers of _____ Lodge No. _____ will assume their respective stations. Brother Junior Deacon, invite the Brethren and guests to have a seat in the Lodge room.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Good evening, ladies, gentlemen and my Brethren, we welcome you to the Public Installation of Officers of _____ Lodge No. _____. Before we proceed, an explanation about the ceremonies which you are about to witness is in order.

The ceremony of Installation of a Worshipful Master is one of the oldest and most revered ceremonies of our Fraternity. Every man who has been installed Worshipful Master of a Lodge has gone through this same ceremony, from the earliest days of our Fraternity, so it is one that is full of meaning and significance to those of us who are members of the Craft.

As Masonry uses the tools of the builder's trade as emblems and symbols to teach its precepts, so it would be good for you to remember that all the ceremonies you are about to witness here this evening have a deeper meaning than would at first appear to the casual viewer.

It is our pleasure to have you with us this evening and we hope you will enjoy this ceremony, which is so meaningful to those of us who are members of this ancient and honorable Fraternity.

Before we begin, it would be best to explain the use of the master's gavel. One rap of the gavel calls up an individual Brother or seats the entire Lodge; two raps of the gavel calls up the Officers of the Lodge; three raps of the gavel calls up the entire Lodge. Only the members of the Fraternity will be requested to respond to the gavel, except during the flag ceremony and during prayers.

I caution the Brethren in attendance that there will be no due guards and signs given throughout the ceremonies this evening.

At this time, please turn off all cell phones and pagers.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Secretary, read the Dispensation.

SECRETARY - (Reads the dispensation)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER. - Brother Senior Deacon, you will, in company with the Senior and Junior Stewards, present the flag of our beloved country. (***)

(The Lodge is raised and flag is presented in the usual manner, without due guards and signs)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren and Guests, join me in the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country.

ALL – (Recites Pledge of Allegiance)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Deacon, you will conduct the flag of our country to its place of honor in the East.

(Flag is conducted to the East in the normal manner)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Steward, conduct the Chaplain to the Altar for prayer.

(After the Chaplain returns to his place, the W.M. makes declaration and seats the Lodge)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - I now declare _____ Lodge No. _____ open for the purpose of public installation of Officers.

(The G.I. may be received at this time)

CEREMONY OF OPEN INSTALLATION

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - At the beginning of my term as Worshipful Master, I opened a Lodge of Sorrow. I now declare that Lodge of Sorrow closed. (*) So ordered Brother Secretary.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - I now dismiss all committees except those on petitions and the Audit Committee. (*) So ordered Brother Secretary.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren, we will now proceed to install the officers of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term. Brother Secretary, read the names of the Officers to be installed and invested.

SECRETARY - (Reads the names and titles of the officers.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Secretary, read the Certification of the Worshipful Master elect

SECRETARY - (Reads the certification)

(After the Secretary has finished reading the names, Installing Officer stands up and remains standing until he leaves the East with the Honor Guard.)

THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Worshipful Master-elect, Brother _____ for installation.

(Presenter goes to West, removes Jewel from W.M.-Elect and conducts him to the Altar. Jewel is placed at side of Altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the honor to present for installation Brother _____, Worshipful Master-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

(The presenter returns to his seat and the Worshipful Master-elect stands alone at the Altar)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Worshipful Master of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

W.M.-ELECT - It is Worshipful Master

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Previous to your investiture, it is necessary that you should signify your assent to those ancient charges and regulations which point out the duty of a Master of a Lodge.

1. You agree to be a good man and true, and strictly to obey the moral law.
2. You agree to be a peaceable subject, and cheerfully to conform to the laws of the country in which you reside.
3. You promise not to be concerned in plots and conspiracies against government, but patiently to submit to the decisions of the supreme legislature.
4. You agree to pay a proper respect to the civil magistrate, to work diligently, live creditably, and act honorably by all men.
5. You agree to hold in veneration the original rulers and patrons of Masonry, and their regular successors, supreme and subordinate, according to their stations; and to submit to the awards and resolutions of your brethren when convened, in every case consistent with the Constitution of the Grand Lodge.
6. You agree to avoid private piques and quarrels, and to guard against intemperance and excess.
7. You agree to be cautious in carriage and behavior, courteous to your brethren, and faithful to your Lodge.
8. You promise to respect genuine brethren, and to discountenance imposters, and all dissenters from the original plan of Masonry.
9. You agree to promote the general good of society, to cultivate the social virtues, and to propagate the knowledge of the art.
10. You promise to pay homage to the Grand Master for the time being, and his officers when duly installed; and strictly to conform to every edict of the Grand Lodge, or General Assembly of Masons, that is not subversive of the principles and groundwork of Masonry
11. You admit that it is not in the power of any man, or body of men, to make innovations in the body of Masonry.
12. You promise a regular attendance on the committees and communications of the Grand Lodge, on receiving proper notice; and to pay attention to all the duties of Masonry, on convenient occasions.
13. You admit that no new Lodge shall be formed without permission of the Grand Lodge; and that no countenance be given to any

- irregular Lodge, or to any person clandestinely initiated therein, being contrary to the ancient charges of the Fraternity.
14. You admit that no person can be regularly made a Mason in, or made a member of any regular Lodge, without previous notice, and due inquiry into his character.
 15. You agree that no visitors shall be received into your Lodge without due examination, and producing proper vouchers of their having been initiated in a regular Lodge.

These are the regulations of Free and Accepted Masons. Do you submit to these charges, and do you promise to support these regulations, as Masters have done in all ages before you?

W.M.-ELECT - I do, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, in consequence of your cheerful conformity to the charges and regulations of the Fraternity, you are now to be installed Worshipful Master of this Lodge, in full confidence of your care, skill and capacity to govern the same. You will place yourself at the Altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as the W.M. elect kneels)

W.M.-ELECT - I, _____, do solemnly swear, I will to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. _____ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kiss the Bible.)

(W.M. seats the lodge) ()*

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office and conducted to the East.

(The W.M. goes to the Altar, invests the W.M. elect with the Jewel of his office, and conducts him to the East)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The various implements of the Fraternity are emblematical of our conduct in life.

1. The Holy Writings, that great light in Masonry, will guide you to all truth; it will direct your paths to the temple of happiness, and point out to you the whole duty of man.
2. The Square teaches to regulate our actions by rule and line, and to harmonize our conduct by the principles of morality and virtue.
3. The Compasses teaches to limit our desires in every station, that, rising to eminence by merit, we may live respected, and die regretted.
4. The Rule directs, that we should punctually observe our duty; press forward in the path of virtue, and, neither inclining to the right nor to the left, in all our actions have eternity in view.
5. The Line teaches the criterion of moral rectitude, to avoid dissimulation in conversation and action, and will direct our steps to the path which leads to immortality.
6. The Book of Constitutions you are to search at all times. Cause it to be read in your Lodge, that none may pretend ignorance of the excellent precepts it enjoins.
7. You now receive in charge the Charter, by the authority of which this Lodge is held, which you are carefully to preserve and duly transmit to your successor in office.
8. Lastly, you receive in charge the By-Laws of your Lodge, which you are to see carefully and punctually executed.

Brother Marshal, you will make proclamation.

(The Marshal goes to the North side of the Lodge, next to the taper nearest the East, turns and faces the South)

MARSHAL - The Honor Guard will form on the north side of the Lodge, double file, facing the East.

(Make one circuit, and halt. The Marshal halts at his starting place and faces the South)

MARSHAL - Brethren, I am ordered to proclaim and do proclaim, that Brother _____, having been duly elected, is now about to be installed Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

(The lines will then be moved in front of and facing the East and give the Entered Apprentice Public Honors of one clap)

MARSHAL - Brethren, I am ordered to proclaim and do proclaim, that Brother _____, having been duly elected, is now about to be installed Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

(The lines will then be moved in front of and facing the East as before and give the Fellowcraft Public Honors of two claps)

MARSHAL - Brethren, I am ordered to proclaim and do proclaim, that Brother _____, having been duly elected, is now installed* Worshipful Master of _____ Lodge No. __ for the ensuing term. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

*(*Simultaneously, W.M. removes his hat and W.M. elect dons his)*

(The Honor Guard proceeds to the East as before and gives the Master Mason Public Honors of three claps)

(Outgoing W.M. raises the Lodge and leaves the East joining the Honor Guard. The newly installed W.M. stands alone in the East)

(The Marshal leads the Honor Guard, then stands at the altar facing the West, and directs the Honor Guard to form parallel lines, one

on the North and the other on the South side of the Lodge, facing the East)

MARSHAL - Honor Guard, inward face.

(Honor Guard turns and faces inward)

MARSHAL - Worshipful Master, behold your Lodge. Brethren, behold your Worshipful Master. Let us salute him with honors.

(All bow)

MARSHAL - Honor Guard dismissed.

(The W.M. seats the Lodge and remains standing to receive the charge)

CHARGE

Worshipful Master, having committed to your care the superintendence and government of the brethren who compose this Lodge, you cannot be insensible of the obligations which devolve on you as their head; nor of your responsibility for the faithful discharge of the important duties annexed to your election. The honor, reputation and usefulness of your Lodge will materially depend on the skill and assiduity with which you manage its concerns; whilst the happiness of its members will be generally promoted in proportion to the zeal and ability with which you propagate the genuine principles of our institution. For a pattern of imitation, consider the great luminary of nature, which, rising in the East, regularly diffuses light and luster to all within its circle; in like manner it is your province to spread and communicate light and instruction to the brethren of your Lodge. Forcibly impress upon them the dignity and high importance of Masonry, and seriously admonish them never to disgrace it. Charge them to practice out of the Lodge, those duties which they have

been taught in it; and by amiable, discreet and virtuous conduct, to convince mankind of the goodness of the institution, so that when any one is said to be a member of it, the world may know that he is one to whom the burthened heart may pour out its sorrows; to whom distress may prefer its suit; whose hand is guided by justice, and his heart expanded by benevolence. In short, by a diligent observance of the by-laws of your Lodge, the constitutions of Masonry, and above all, the Holy Scriptures, which are given as a rule and guide to your faith, you will be enabled to acquit yourself with honor and reputation, and lay up a crown of rejoicing, which shall continue when time shall be no more.

(After the charge a gavel may be presented to the new W.M. All other gift presentations should be made following the final proclamation.)

*(After the gavel presentation, the W.M. may raise the Lodge and then call on the Chaplain to accompany him to the altar for prayer. The W.M. raises the Lodge before leaving the East and seats the Lodge * upon his return.)*

THE SENIOR WARDEN

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Senior Warden-elect, Brother _____, for installation.

(Presenter goes to South, removes jewel from S.W.-elect and conducts him to the altar. Jewel is placed at side of altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for installation, Brother _____, Senior Warden-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Senior Warden of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

S.W.-ELECT - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will place yourself at the Altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as he kneels)

S.W.-ELECT - I _____, do solemnly swear, I will, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Senior Warden of _____ Lodge No. _____ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kisses the Bible)

(W.M. seats the Lodge when he stands)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the jewel of your office.

(Presenter places jewel on S.W.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The Level demonstrates that we are descended from the same stock, partake of the same nature, and share the same hope; and though distinctions among men are necessary to preserve subordination, yet no eminence of station should make us forget that we are brethren; for he who is placed on the lowest spoke of fortune's wheel, may be entitled to our regard; because a time will come, and the wisest knoweth not how soon, when all distinction, but that of goodness, shall cease; and death, the grand leveler of human greatness, reduce us to the same state.

Your regular attendance on our stated meetings is essentially necessary; in the absence of the Master you are to govern this Lodge; in his presence you are to assist him in the government of it. I firmly rely on your knowledge of Masonry and attachment to the Lodge, for the faithful discharge of the duties of this important trust. — Look well to the West!

You will now be conducted to the West.

(S.W. is conducted to his station and sits)

THE JUNIOR WARDEN

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Junior Warden-elect, Brother _____ for installation.

(Presenter conducts J.W.-elect to the altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for installation, Brother _____, Junior Warden-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Junior Warden of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

J.W.-ELECT - It is Worshipful Master

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will place yourself at the altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as the J.W.-elect kneels)

J.W.-ELECT - I, _____, do solemnly swear, I will, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Junior Warden of _____

Lodge No.____ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kisses bible)

(W.M. seats the Lodge when he stands)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office.

(Presenter places Jewel on J.W.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The Plumb admonishes us to walk uprightly in our several stations, to hold the scales of justice in equipoise, to observe the just medium between intemperance and pleasure, and to make our passions and prejudices coincide with the line of our duty. To you is committed the superintendence of the Craft during the hours of refreshment; it is therefore indispensably necessary that you should not only be temperate and discreet in the indulgence of your own inclinations, but carefully observe that none of the Craft be suffered to convert the purposes of refreshment into intemperance and excess. Your regular and punctual attendance is particularly requested; and I have no doubt that you will faithfully execute the duties which you owe to your Lodge. — Look well to the South!

You will now be conducted to the South.

(J.W. is conducted to his station and remains standing and the S.W. rises)

CHARGE

Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, you are too well acquainted with the principles of Masonry to warrant any distrust that you will be

found wanting in the discharge of your respective duties. Suffice it to mention, that what you have seen praiseworthy in others, you should carefully imitate; and what in them may have appeared defective, you should in yourselves amend. You should be examples of good order and regularity; for it is only by a due regard to the laws in your own conduct, that you can expect obedience to them from others. You are assiduously to assist the Master in the discharge of his trust, diffusing light and imparting knowledge to all whom he shall place under your care. In the absence of the Master you will succeed to higher duties; your acquirements must therefore be such that the Craft may never suffer for want of proper instruction. From the spirit which you have hitherto evinced I entertain no doubt that your future conduct will be such as to merit the applause of your brethren, and the testimony of a good conscience.

THE SECRETARY

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Secretary-elect, Brother _____, for installation.

(Presenter goes to Secretary's place, removes jewel and conducts him to the altar. Jewel is placed at side of altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for installation, Brother _____, Secretary-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been elected Secretary of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

SECRETARY-ELECT – It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – You will place yourself at the altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as he kneels)

SECRETARY-ELECT - I, _____, do solemnly swear, I will, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Secretary of _____ Lodge No. ___ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kiss the Bible)

(W.M. seats the Lodge when he stands)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office.

(Presenter places Jewel on Secretary)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, as Secretary of this Lodge it is your duty to observe the Worshipful Master's will and pleasure; to record the proceedings of the Lodge; to receive all moneys and pay them to the Treasurer. Your good inclination to Masonry and this Lodge, I hope, will induce you to discharge your office with fidelity, and by so doing, you will merit the esteem and applause of your Brethren. You will now be conducted to your place.

(Secretary is conducted to his place and sits)

THE TREASURER

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, Present the Treasurer-elect, Brother _____, for installation.

(Presenter goes to Treasurer's place, removes Jewel and conducts him to the Altar. Jewel is placed at side of Altar)

PRESENTER – Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for installation, Brother _____, Treasurer-elect of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER Brother _____, you have been elected Treasurer of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

TREASURER-ELECT - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will place yourself at the Altar and assume the obligation.

(W.M. raises the Lodge as he kneels)

TREASURER-ELECT - I, _____ do solemnly swear, I will, to the best of my ability, perform the duties of Treasurer of _____ Lodge No. ____ for the ensuing term and until my successor shall have been duly elected and installed. So help me God.

(Kiss the Bible)

(W.M. seats the Lodge when he stands)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office.

(Presenter places jewel on Treasurer)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____ as Treasurer of this Lodge, it is your duty to receive all moneys from the Secretary, keep just and regular accounts of the same, and pay them out at he Worshipful

Master's will and pleasure, with the consent of the Lodge. I trust, your regard for the Fraternity will prompt you to the faithful discharge of the duties of your office. You will now be conducted to your place.

(Treasurer is escorted to his place and sits)

(If the Secretary and Treasurer have been re-elected, they may be installed together and the W.M. may use his own words of greeting in place of the charge to each)

THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR DEACONS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Senior and Junior Deacons for investiture.

(Presenter goes to Senior Deacon's place, removes jewel and takes the staff and conducts him to the altar. Presenter then goes to Junior Deacon's place, removes jewel and takes the staff and conducts him to the altar, S.D. on the north side and J.S. on the south side. Jewels and staffs are placed at side of altar)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brothers _____, and _____, as Senior and Junior Deacons of _____ Lodge No. ____

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been appointed Senior Deacon, and Brother _____, you have been appointed Junior Deacon of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

DEACONS - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the jewel of your office.

(Only jewel is presented)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brothers _____ and _____, as Deacons of this Lodge, it is your province to attend on the Master and Wardens, and to act as their proxies in the active duties of the Lodge; such as in the reception of candidates into the different degrees of Masonry, the introduction and accommodation of visitors, and in the immediate practice of our rites. Those Rods*, as badges of your office, I entrust to your care, not doubting your vigilance and attention. You will now be conducted to your places

*(*Present staffs)*

(S.D. and J.D. are conducted to their places and sit)

THE SENIOR AND JUNIOR STEWARDS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Senior and Junior Stewards for investiture.

(Presenter goes to the Senior Steward's place, removes jewel and takes staff and conducts him to the altar, then goes to the Junior Steward's place, removes jewel and takes staff and conducts him to the altar, S.S. on the North and J.S. on the South. Jewels and staffs are placed at side of altar.)

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brothers _____ and _____ as Senior and Junior Stewards of _____ Lodge No. ____

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother, _____ you have been appointed Senior Steward and Brother _____, you have been appointed Junior Steward of this Lodge for the ensuing

term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

STEWARDS - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the jewel of your office.

(Present jewels and staffs)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brothers _____ and _____, as Stewards of this Lodge, the duties of your office are, to assist in the collection of dues and subscriptions, to keep an account of the Lodge expenses, to see that the tables are properly furnished at refreshment and that every brother is suitably provided for, and generally to assist the Deacons and other officers in performing their duties. Your regular and early attendance will afford the best proof of your zeal and attachment to the Lodge.

You will now be conducted to your places.

(S.S. and J.S. are conducted to their places and sit)

THE CHAPLAIN

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Chaplain for investiture.

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brother _____ as Chaplain of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been appointed Chaplain of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

CHAPLAIN - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office.

(Present Jewel.)

(The W.M. may address the Chaplain regarding his duties.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be conducted to your place.

(Chaplain is escorted to his place and sits.)

THE MARSHAL

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Marshal for investiture.

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brother _____ as Marshal of _____ Lodge No. ____.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been appointed Marshal of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

MARSHAL - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the Jewel of your office.

(Present Jewel.)

(The W.M. may address the Marshal regarding his duties.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be conducted to your place.
(Marshal is escorted to his place and sits.)

THE TYLER

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, present the Tyler for investiture.

PRESENTER - Worshipful Master, I have the pleasure to present for investiture, Brother _____, as Tyler of _____ Lodge No. _____

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother _____, you have been appointed Tyler of this Lodge for the ensuing term. Is it your pleasure to serve as such?

TYLER - It is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be invested with the jewel of your office.

(Present Jewel.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - As the sword is placed in the hands of the Tyler*, to enable him to effectually guard against the approach of cowans and eavesdroppers, and suffer none to pass or repass without permission from the Lodge, so it should admonish us to set a guard over our thoughts, a watch at our lips, post a sentinel over our actions, thereby preventing the approach of every unworthy thought or deed to our hearts and preserving our consciences void of offense towards God and towards man.

*(*Sword is place in Tyler's hands)*

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - You will now be conducted to your place.

(Tyler is conducted to a seat inside the door and sits)

CHARGE TO THE LODGE

Brethren of _____ Lodge, Such is the nature of our constitution that as some must of necessity rule and teach, so others must of course learn to submit and obey. Humility in both is an essential duty. The officers who have been chosen to govern this Lodge are sufficiently conversant with the rules of propriety, and the laws of the institution, to avoid exceeding the powers with which they are entrusted; and you are of a too generous disposition to envy their preferment. I therefore trust that you will have but one aim; to please each other, and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness. Finally, my brethren, as this Fraternity has been formed and perfected in so much unanimity and concord, in which we greatly rejoice, so may it long continue. May you long enjoy every satisfaction and delight which disinterested friendship can afford. May kindness and brotherly affection distinguish your conduct as men and as Masons. Within your peaceful walls, may your children's children celebrate with joy and gratitude the transactions of this auspicious solemnity. And may the tenets of our profession be transmitted through your Lodge, pure and unimpaired, from generation to generation.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Marshal, you will make Proclamation.

(Marshal stands in front of the Altar)

MARSHAL - Brethren, I am ordered to proclaim and do proclaim, that the Officers of _____ Lodge No. ____ have been duly installed and invested. This Proclamation I make to the South, to the West and to the

East; take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly. Worshipful Master, Proclamation has been made.

OPEN A LODGE OF SORROW

(Worshipful Master stands and raises the Lodge)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Warden, it is my order that a Lodge of Sorrow be now opened and stand open until closed by me at the conclusion of my term as Worshipful Master. You will report the same to the Junior Warden in the South, the Brethren having due notice thereof, may govern themselves accordingly.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brother Junior Warden, it is the order of the Worshipful Master that a Lodge of Sorrow be now opened and stand open until closed by him at the conclusion of his term as Worshipful Master. You will report the same to the Brethren, they having due notice thereof, may govern themselves accordingly.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren, you have heard the order of the Worshipful Master as communicated to me by the Senior Warden in the West. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Signs.

(All Brethren present make signs. The arms are crossed on the breast, the right is uppermost, and the palms of the hands on the shoulders.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - We will cherish their memory in our hearts.

(The arms are raised straight out 45° above the head, palms of the hands inward.)

SENIOR WARDEN - And commend their spirit to God who gave it.

(The Chaplain is escorted to the Altar, remains standing, and says:)

CHAPLAIN - Brethren, join me in a moment of silent prayer.

(Chaplain kneels.)

CHAPLAIN - May the peace that passeth all understanding rest and abide with you now and forever. Amen.

BRETHREN - So mote it be.

(Chaplain rises and is conducted to his place)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - I now declare a Lodge of Sorrow open. So ordered, Brother Secretary. (*) WM seats the Lodge.

CLOSING

(Presentation of the Past Master's Jewel and Apron and other gift presentations may be made during the Closing as attendees are called upon.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Warden, is there anything in the West claiming the attention of this Lodge before we proceed to close?

SENIOR WARDEN - Nothing in the West, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything in the South, Brother Junior Warden?

JUNIOR WARDEN - Nothing in the South, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything on your desk, Brother Secretary?

SECRETARY - Nothing further on my desk, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything on your desk, Brother Treasurer?

TREASURER - Nothing on my desk, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything among the Brethren?

(Members, including Past Masters, may respond.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Anything among the visitors?

(Visitors may respond.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Are there any additional presentations to be made?

(Any additional presentations are to be made at this time.)

(The Worshipful Master makes his remarks and acknowledgements at this time. When he has concluded, he calls on the Grand Inspector.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Grand Inspector.

*(When the Grand Inspector has concluded, the Officers are raised.
***)*

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Warden, how should we as Freemasons meet?

SENIOR WARDEN - On the level.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - How act, Brother Junior Warden?

JUNIOR WARDEN - By the plumb

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - And part upon the square. Thus may we ever meet, act, and part. Brother Senior Steward, conduct the Chaplain to the altar for prayer.

(The Lodge is raised and the Chaplain is conducted to the Altar for the closing prayer.)

CHAPLAIN - May the blessing of heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons. May brotherly love prevail and every moral and social virtue cement us. Amen.

BRETHREN - So mote it be.

(The Chaplain is conducted to his place in the usual manner and the Senior Deacon attends to his duties at the Altar and returns to his place. The tapers are extinguished and the Senior Warden lowers his Column.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - I now declare this Open Installation of Officers of _____ Lodge No. ____ closed. (*)

SECTION 9
MARYLAND MASONIC
TABLE LODGE CEREMONY

FOR SUBORDINATE LODGES

Maryland Masonic Lodges requirements for conducting an “Table Lodge Ceremony”:

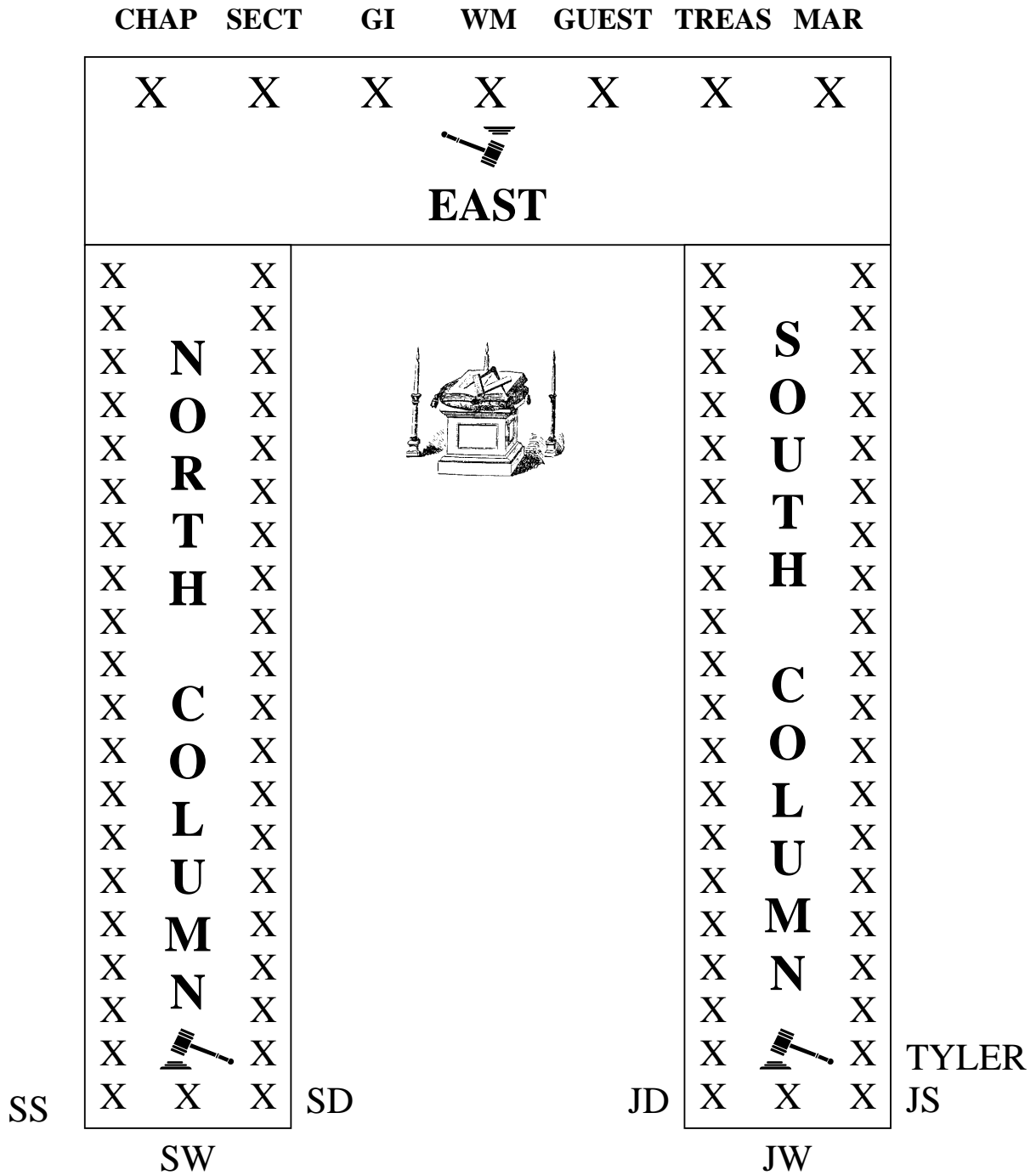
Closed Table Lodge Requirements:

1. All Maryland Lodges must obtain a dispensation granting permission from the Most Worshipful Grand Master to have an event using the provided forms and ceremony from the Grand Lodge. The purpose of this section of our “Maryland Public Ceremonies” is intended for Blue Lodge use only.
2. No alcoholic beverages are to be served or consumed.
3. All in attendance, including wait staff and servers must be at a minimum Entered Apprentice or higher degree of Masons.
4. The Ceremony will be opened and closed in full form in the “Entered Apprentice Degree.” No other degree is permissible to be used.
5. The Great Lights of Masonry, carried by the Senior Deacon, (Holy Bible, Square and Compass) will be a second set and the “Holy Bible, Square and Compass” are not to be removed from the Altar in the Lodge room.
6. Procession to be in ascending order for officers, with the brethren in advance, all proceeded by the Marshal.
7. When setting up the altar (located in the area to be used) the Holy Bible, Square and Compass can be placed on the altar indicating that the Lights are set in the Entered Apprentice Degree.
8. It is recommended that your ritualist and your Deputy Grand Lecturer review this process to insure strict adherence to the rules.
9. If the Most Worshipful Grand Master is in attendance, he will be the last to speak after the seventh toast and before the singing of “Auld Lang Syne.”

Open Table Lodge Requirements:

1. All Maryland Lodges must obtain a dispensation granting permission from the Most Worshipful Grand Master to have an Open Table Lodge Ceremony using the provided forms and ceremony from the Grand Lodge. All other coordinated bodies must follow their own rules and regulations seeking permission to use this ceremony.
2. This event is like any other public event using alcoholic beverages conducted by a Masonic Lodge such as: Ladies Night, Valentine's Day Celebration, Bull Roast, Crab Feast or any other Festive or Social gatherings to promote friendship, fellowship and brotherly love which requires a dispensation from the Most Worshipful Grand Master.
3. The Masonic Lodge room will not be used and will not be opened in any degree.
4. The Altar that is used during the ceremony is to be set-up in the public area. Although the Holy Bible, Square and Compass will be placed on the Alter in the Entered Apprentice Degree formation, please remember the lodge itself is not formally opened and need not to be closed.
5. Wine (Red or White) may be served during the Ceremony when toast are being offered. No other alcoholic beverage may be substituted.
6. All Federal, State and Local regulations concerning the use of alcoholic beverages are to be enforced.
7. No one under the age of 21 may serve or consume any alcoholic beverages.
8. The invited guests will assemble in the area designated for holding the event.
9. The officers will assemble to their assigned seating arrangement and the Worshipful Master proceeds with the Table Lodge Ceremony.
10. If the Most Worshipful Grand Master is in attendance, he will be the last to speak after the seventh toast and before the singing of "Auld Lang Syne."

TABLE LODGE ARRANGEMENT



WEST

After the labors of the Lodge have been completed, Freemasons frequently meet at tables to enjoy a repast in common. In England and America, this repast is generally called a banquet, and the Lodge is said to be, during its continuance, at refreshment. The Worshipful Master, of course, presides, assisted by the Senior and Junior Wardens, and it is considered most proper that; no profanes should be present. But with these exceptions, there are no rules specially laid down for the government of Masonic banquets. During the eighteenth century, and even at the commencement of the nineteenth, refreshments in English Lodges were taken during the sessions of the Lodge and in the Lodge room, and then, of course, rigid rules were in existence for the government of the fraternity, and for the regulation of the forms in which the refreshments should be partaken. But this system has long grown obsolete, and the Masonic banquets of the present day differ very little from those of other societies, except, perhaps, in a more strict observance of the rules of order, and in the exclusion of all non-Masonic visitors.

But French Freemasons have prescribed a very formal system of rules for what they call a *Loge de Table*, or *Table Lodge*. The room in which the banquet takes place is as much protected by its isolation from observation: as the Lodge room itself. Table Lodges are always held in the Entered Apprentice's Degree, and none but Freemasons are permitted to be present. Even the attendants are taken from the class known as *Serving Brethren*, that is to say, waiters who have received the First Degree for the special purpose of entitling them to be present on such occasions.

The Table Lodge is in the form of a horseshoe or elongated semi-circle: the Worshipful Master sits at the head, the Senior Warden at the northwest extremity, and the Junior Warden at the southwest extremity. The Deacons or equivalent officers sit between the two Wardens. The Brethren are placed around the exterior margin of the table, facing each other, and the void space between the sides is occupied by the serving Brethren or attendants. It is probable that the form of the table was really adopted at first for motives of convenience. But M. Hermitte assigns for it a symbolism. He says that as the entire circle represents the year, or the complete revolution of the earth round the sun, the semicircle represents the half of that revolution, or a period of six months, and therefore refers to each of the two solstitial points of summer and winter, or the two great festivals of the Order in June and December, when the most important Table Lodges are held.

The Table Lodge is formally opened with an invocation to the Grand Architect. During the banquet seven toasts are given. These are called *Santes d'Obligation*, obligatory toasts. They are drunk with certain ceremonies, which are prescribed by the ritual and from which no departure is permitted. These toasts are:

1. To the President of the United States of America.
2. To the Worshipful Grand Master and the Grand Lodge.

3. To the Masters of the Lodges.
4. To the Wardens of the Lodges.
5. To all Other Officers, Past Masters, Members, Visiting Brethren and New Initiates or Affiliates Brethren.
6. To all Freemasons wheresoever dispersed and to the memory of our Departed Brethren.
7. To all Armed Forces, Fireman and Police of the United States of America.

(See toasts)

Bro. Ragon refers these seven toasts obligation to the seven libations made by the ancients in their banquets in honor of the seven planets, the Sun, Moon, Mars, Mercury, Jupiter, Venus, and Saturn, and the seven days of the week, which are named after them; and he assigns some striking reasons for the reference. But this symbolism, although, very beautiful, is evidently very modern.

One of the most curious things about these Table Lodges is the vocabulary used. The instant the Lodge is opened, a change takes place in the names of things, and no person is permitted to call a plate a plate, or a knife a knife, or anything else by the appellation by which it is known in ordinary conversation. Such a custom formerly prevailed in England, if we may judge from a passage in Doctor Oliver's Revelations of a Square, where an instance is given of its use in 1780, when the French vocabulary was employed. It would seem, from the same authority, that Captain George Smith, the author of the "Use and Abuse of Freemasonry", who was initiated in a Continental Lodge, introduced the custom into England from France.

The vocabulary of the Table Lodge as used at French Masonic Banquets is as follows, the various references being followed in each case by the Masonic names applied to them by the Brethren:

THE VOCABULARY OF THE OPEN TABLE LODGE

Table	=	Trestleboard
Table Cloth	=	Standard
Napkins	=	Flags
Dishes	=	Platforms
Plates	=	Tiles
Spoons	=	Trowels
Knives	=	Swords
Forks	=	Mattocks
Bottles	=	Barrels
Glasses	=	Cannons
Food	=	Materials
Bread	=	Rough Ashlar
Lights	=	Stars
Chairs	=	Stalls
Wine or juices	=	Fulminating Powder
Water	=	Weak Powder
Coffee	=	Black Powder
Salt	=	Sand
Pepper	=	Dust
Mustard	=	Paint
To Eat	=	To Masticate
To Charge	=	Fill-up
To Drink	=	To Fire
To Carve	=	To Hew
Snuffers	=	Pincers

THE CEREMONY OF THE SEVEN TOASTS

Right Hand to Arms - *The right hand touches the cannon (glass).*

Ready (Second Position) - *The cannon is raised, the arm extended to the height of the breast.*

Aim - *The cannon is brought to the lips.*

Fire - *Take a sip of your drink.*

Good Fire - *Drink more of your drink.*

Fire All - *Empty your cannon.*

Present Arms - *The cannon is brought to the second position, all imitating the Worshipful Master. Then the cannon is carried to the left breast, then to the right breast, and then again to the second position, so that the motion makes a triangle. This triangle is to be completed three times. The cannon is then brought to the table in three movements, that is to say, it is carried horizontally a little to the left, then to the right, and then brought forcibly to the table. The foregoing should be done with exactness and evenness so that the whole company may execute the same movements at the same time and causing the cannons to strike the table with one blow.*

The Battery 3 times 3 - *Three sharp clasps in unison with the right hand on top, followed by three sharp claps in unison with the left hand on top and finally three sharp claps in unison with the right hand on top.*

Vivat – Vivat – Vivat (Vī-văt) - *Shouted out, while thrusting your right arm upward each time when shouting out Vivat.*

OPENING

When all are seated in their places, the Worshipful Master will give a short explanation about the Table Lodge and how it will be conducted.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (Standing) (*) Arise Brother Senior Warden. Brother Senior Warden, are you a Mason?

SENIOR WARDEN - All my Brethren know me to be such.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - What is the first care of a Mason?

SENIOR WARDEN - To see if the lodge is tyled.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Satisfy yourself.

SENIOR WARDEN - (Pause) it is, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - What is the second?

SENIOR WARDEN - To see if all the Brethren are in order. (After looking about) They are, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Why are we met together?

SENIOR WARDEN - To erect Temples to virtue and dig dungeons for vices.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - How long must we work?

SENIOR WARDEN - From midday to midnight.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - How long a time is required to make an Entered Apprentice?

SENIOR WARDEN - Three years.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - What is your age?

SENIOR WARDEN - Three years.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - What is the hour?

SENIOR WARDEN - Almost midday.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*) Arise Brother Junior Warden. Your duty in a Table Lodge?

JUNIOR WARDEN - To call the Craft to Table Instruction, superintend them during the hour thereof, see that none exceed the allotted time for responses and discourses, sound the gavel as a warning when necessary, a definite time plan being essential to a Table Lodge.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - In consideration of the hour and age, inform our Brethren that a Lodge of Entered Apprentices and one of Table Instruction are open and that we are about to begin our works in the usual manner.

SENIOR WARDEN - (*) Brethren on the North column, arise.

JUNIOR WARDEN - (*) Brethren on the South column, arise.

SENIOR WARDEN - In consideration of the hour and age, a Lodge of Entered Apprentices and one of Table instruction are open and we are about to begin our works in the usual manner.

JUNIOR WARDEN - In consideration of the hour and age, a Lodge of Entered Apprentices and one of Table instruction are open and we are about to begin our works in the usual manner.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Deacon, arrange the lights in the Entered Apprentice Degree.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Chaplain, the invocation.

CHAPLAIN - Supreme Ruler of the Universe, we would reverently invoke Thy blessing at this time, wilt Thou be pleased to grant that this meeting thus begun in order, may be conducted in peace, and closed in harmony. Amen.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*)

SENIOR WARDEN - (Goes to the altar) Permit me to impress on your mind that Freemasonry is not a club or an association that you join and then push aside because of the conflicts of other interests. Should your business and social life leave little time for your Masonic Lodge, think not that faithful lodge attendance is a measure of your worth as a Freemason. The applications of Masonic principles to daily life - in business, in social contacts, in civic affairs, in political responsibilities has nothing to do with attending lodge. You are set apart as a Freemason. All your life, you support Masonry because it teaches men to think for themselves, and stand as a bulwark of democracy and the church or synagogue and is the only world-wide brotherhood. Do not merely confess that you belong to the Masons; say with full assurance.

I AM A MASON!

THE FIRST TOAST

(Toast at the Start)
(*Senior Warden stands up*)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Warden, What do you desire?

SENIOR WARDEN - Worshipful Master, I beg to allow arms to be charged and aligned for a toast I wish to propose.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the cannons to be charged and aligned for the first toast.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the North column, charge and align your cannons.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the South column charge and align your cannons.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, are all the cannons charged and aligned?

SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS - Yes, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The East is likewise. (***) (*All arise*) The East yields to your desires Brother Senior Warden. What is the toast that you wish to propose?

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren, the toast I have the pleasure to propose is: **To the President of the United States of America.**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER –
RIGHT HAND TO ARMS
READY

AIM

FIRE

GOOD FIRE

FIRE ALL

PRESENT ARMS

BATTERY THREE TIMES THREE

ALL - VIVAT - VIVAT - VIVAT

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*)

SECOND TOAST

(When the Meal is Served)
(*Junior Warden stands up*)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Junior Warden, what do you desire?

JUNIOR WARDEN - Worshipful Master, I beg to allow arms to be charged and aligned for a toast I wish to propose.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the cannons to be charged and aligned for the second toast.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the North column, charge and align your cannons.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the South column charge and align your cannons.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, are all the cannons charged and aligned?

SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS - Yes, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The East is likewise. (***) (*All arise*) The East yields to your desires Brother Junior Warden. What is the toast that you wish to propose?

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren, the toast I have the pleasure to propose is: **To the Most Worshipful Grand Master, Bro. (FULL NAME), The Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Maryland, and To the Grand Lodge of Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of Maryland.**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER –

RIGHT HAND TO ARMS
READY
AIM
FIRE
GOOD FIRE
FIRE ALL
PRESENT ARMS
BATTERY THREE TIMES THREE

ALL - VIVAT - VIVAT - VIVAT

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*)

THIRD TOAST

(At the finish of the Meal)
(*Senior Deacon stands up*)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Deacon, what do you desire?

SENIOR DEACON - Worshipful Master, I beg to allow arms to be charged and aligned for a toast I wish to propose.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the cannons to be charged and aligned for the third toast.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the North column, charge and align your cannons.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the South column charge and align your cannons.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, are all the cannons charged and aligned?

SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS - Yes, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The East is likewise. (***) (*All arise*) The East yields to your desires Brother Senior Deacon. What is the toast that you wish to propose?

SENIOR DEACON - Brethren, the toast I have the pleasure to propose is: **To All Worshipful Masters who direct the labors of their Lodges, and of all who are near and dear to them.**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER –
RIGHT HAND TO ARMS

READY

AIM

FIRE

GOOD FIRE

FIRE ALL

PRESENT ARMS

BATTERY THREE TIMES THREE

ALL - VIVAT - VIVAT - VIVAT

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*)

FOURTH TOAST

(After Dessert)

(Junior Deacon stands up)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Junior Deacon, What do you desire?

JUNIOR DEACON - Worshipful Master, I beg to allow arms to be charged and aligned for a toast I wish to propose.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the cannons to be charged and aligned for the fourth toast.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the North column, charge and align your cannons.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the South column charge and align your cannons.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, are all the cannons charged and aligned?

SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS - Yes, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The East is likewise. (***) *(All arise)* The East yields to your desires Brother Junior Deacon. What is the toast that you wish to propose?

JUNIOR DEACON - Brethren, the toast I have the pleasure to propose is: **To All Wardens.**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER –
RIGHT HAND TO ARMS
READY

AIM

FIRE

GOOD FIRE

FIRE ALL

PRESENT ARMS

BATTERY THREE TIMES THREE

ALL - VIVAT - VIVAT - VIVAT

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*)

GUEST SPEAKER

(Full Name)

(Bio)

Notes

FIFTH TOAST

(After the Guest Speaker)
(*Senior Steward stands up*)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Steward, what do you desire?

SENIOR STEWARD - Worshipful Master, I beg to allow arms to be charged and aligned for a toast I wish to propose.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the cannons to be charged and aligned for the fifth toast.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the North column, charge and align your cannons.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the South column charge and align your cannons.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, are all the cannons charged and aligned?

SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS - Yes, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The East is likewise. (***) (*All arise*) The East yields to your desires Brother Senior Steward. What is the toast that you wish to propose?

SENIOR STEWARD - Brethren, the toast I have the pleasure to propose is: **To All the other Officers, Past Masters, Members, Visiting Brethren and to those newly initiated Brethren.**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER –
RIGHT HAND TO ARMS

READY

AIM

FIRE

GOOD FIRE

FIRE ALL

PRESENT ARMS

BATTERY THREE TIMES THREE

ALL - VIVAT - VIVAT - VIVAT

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*)

**WORSHIPFUL MASTERS
REMARKS**

Notes

SIXTH TOAST

(After remarks from the East)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the cannons to be charged and aligned for the sixth toast.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the North column, charge and align your cannons.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the South column charge and align your cannons.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, are all the cannons charged and aligned?

SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS - Yes, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The East is likewise. (***) (*All arise*) Brethren, the toast I have the pleasure to propose is: **To all Freemasons where so ever dispersed over the face of the earth; May our Brethren of all nations be united under the mantel of universal Friendship and Brotherhood for the benefit of all Mankind and to the memory of our departed Brethren.**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER –

RIGHT HAND TO ARMS

READY

AIM

FIRE

GOOD FIRE

FIRE ALL

PRESENT ARMS

BATTERY THREE TIMES THREE

ALL - VIVAT - VIVAT - VIVAT

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*)

GRAND INSPECTORS REMARKS

Notes

SEVENTH TOAST

(After the Grand Inspector)
(*Junior Steward stands up*)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Junior Steward, what do you desire?

JUNIOR STEWARD - Worshipful Master, I beg to allow arms to be charged and aligned for a toast I wish to propose.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, cause the cannons to be charged and aligned for the seventh toast.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the North column, charge and align your cannons.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren on the South column charge and align your cannons.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, are all the cannons charged and aligned?

SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS - Yes, Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - The East is likewise. (***) (*All arise*) The East yields to your desires Brother Junior Steward. What is the toast that you wish to propose?

JUNIOR STEWARD - Brethren, the toast I have the pleasure to propose is: **To All the Armed Forces, Firemen, and Police of the United States of America.**

WORSHIPFUL MASTER –
RIGHT HAND TO ARMS

READY

AIM

FIRE

GOOD FIRE

FIRE ALL

PRESENT ARMS

BATTERY THREE TIMES THREE

ALL - VIVAT - VIVAT - VIVAT

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*)

CLOSING

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - (*) Brother Junior Warden, you will call the Craft from Table of Instruction.

JUNIOR WARDEN - We have met in peace. And now in harmony, I call the Craft from Table of Instruction.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Chaplain, a benediction. (***)

CHAPLAIN - And now may the blessing of heaven rest upon us and all regular Masons, may brotherly love prevail, and every moral and social virtue cement us.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior Deacon, take charge of the Lights.

(Senior Deacon Break the lights)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brother Senior and Junior Wardens, are all the Brethren in order?

SENIOR & JUNIOR WARDENS - They are Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - What is the hour?

SENIOR WARDEN - Midnight.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - What is your age?

SENIOR WARDEN - Three years.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - In consideration of hour and age, inform all our Brethren both on the Column of the North and South, that we are about to close this Lodge, ending our work in the usual manner.

SENIOR WARDEN - Brethren on my column, I inform you on behalf of the Worshipful Master, that we are about to close this Lodge, ending our work in the usual manner.

JUNIOR WARDEN - Brethren on my column, I inform you on behalf of the Worshipful Master, that we are about to close this Lodge, ending our work in the usual manner.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Brethren join hands and let sing “Auld Lang Syne”. My Brothers, the Table Lodge is closed. (*)

AULD LANG SYNE

Should auld acquaintance be forgot.
An' never be brought to mind?
Should auld acquaintance be forgot.
An' days o' auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne.
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.



Then here's a hand, my trusty frien'
And gie's a han' o' thine;
We'll tak' a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.

For auld lang syne, my dear
For auld lang syne.
We'll take a cup o' kindness yet
For auld lang syne.

SECTION 9

LODGE SPECIAL DEDICATION CEREMONY

Any Regular Lodge in the State of Maryland may use the following procedure to dedicate specific items or furniture of a lodge to recognize and Honor the donor. However, all Lodge buildings and Cornerstone Dedications are only to be performed by the Grand Master. These dedications can only be done after receiving a dispensation from the Most Worshipful grand Master.

The officers shall align themselves in the following manner:

(If a Lodge does not have appointed the officers listed below, they may be eliminated from the procession.)

Marshal	
Tyler	
Junior Steward (With Staff)	Senior Steward (With Staff)
Ritualist	Pursuivant
Sword Bearer	Standard Bearer
Chaplain	Director of Ceremonies
Secretary	Treasurer
Junior Warden	Senior Warden
Junior Deacon (With Staff)	Senior Deacon (With Staff)
Worshipful Master	

(With the Lodge Officers in proper line, the Marshal will proceed to the location of the item to be dedicated and will make the following proclamation.)

SILENCE! SILENCE! SILENCE!

BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER IN ME VESTED,
I PROCLAIM _____,
THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER OF _____ LODGE,
NO. _____.

(The Lodge Officers will then proceed into the area in the proper order and place themselves as the _____ in their redescribed positions.)

Senior Warden _____ Junior Warden
Worshipful Master

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Brother Senior Warden, the Lodge having been assembled for the purposed of dedicating this _____, here erected, it is my order that the Lodge now proceed in the performance of that important ceremony. This, my will and pleasure, you will communicate to the Junior Warden, and he to the Brethren present, that having due notice may govern themselves accordingly.

SENIOR WARDEN – Brother Junior Warden, it is the order of the Worshipful Master that this _____ be now dedicated with Masonic Honors. This, his will and pleasure, you will proclaim to all present, that the occasion may be observed with due order and solemnity.

JUNIOR WARDEN – Brethren, and all who are present, take notice, that the Worshipful Master will now dedicate this _____ in Masonic form. You will observe the order and decorum becoming the important and solemn ceremonies in which we are about to engage.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – As no man should engage in any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity, let us pray.

CHAPLAIN – Almighty God, on Whom we build all our hopes for this life and the life to come, bless us in this moment of consecration, as we prepare to dedicate this _____. We thank Thee for those whose vision and planning now become a reality, as upon these foundations a _____ has been erected to the glory and the cause of Freemasonry. Amen.

(The principal Architect then presents the Working Tools to the Worshipful Master, who directs the Marshal to present them to the Senior and Junior Wardens.)

(The Worshipful Master takes the Trowel and the Square, the Senior Warden takes the Level, and the Junior Warden takes the Plumb. The Worshipful Master standing in front of the _____, the Senior Warden at this right, and the Junior Warden to his left. The Worshipful Master then symbolically spreads the cement. The Square, Level, and Plumb are then symbolically applied to the _____ by the proper officers.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – The proper Jewel of my office is the square. I have applied the square to those parts of the _____ that should be square, and the Craftsmen have done their duty. Brother Senior Warden, what is the proper Jewel of your office?

SENIOR WARDEN – The Level.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - Have you applied the Level to those parts of the _____ that should be Level?

SENIOR WARDEN – I have, Worshipful Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Brother Junior Warden, what is the proper Jewel of your office?

JUNIOR WARDEN – The plumb.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Have you applied the Plumb to those parts of the _____ that should be Plumb?

JUNIOR WARDEN – I have, Worshipful Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Brother Senior Warden, see if the _____ is well formed, true and trusty.

SENIOR WARDEN – I find this _____ well formed, true and trusty, and may this undertaking be conducted and completed by the Brethren according to the grand plan, in Peace, Love and Harmony.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Having full confidence in your skill in the Royal Art, it remains with me to finish the work.

(The Worshipful Master then givens three knocks upon the _____ saying:)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Know all of you who hear me. We proclaim ourselves free and lawful Masons, true to the laws of our country, professing to fear God and confer benefits on mankind. We practice universal benevolence towards all. We have secrets concealed from the eyes of men which may not be revealed to any by Masons: they are, however, lawful and honorable. We are assembled in the open day, under the broad canopy of Heaven, to dedicate this _____. May God prosper our handiwork as shall most please Him, any may this _____ continue for centuries a credit to the City of _____ and a blessing to the citizens thereof.

(The Worshipful Master then receives from the Marshal the cornucopia containing corn, and spreads the corn upon the _____, saying:)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER - May plenty be showered upon the people of this City and State, and the blessing of the Bounteous Giver of all things attend their philanthropic undertakings.

(The Marshal then presents the cup of wine to the Senior Warden who pours it upon the _____, saying:)

SENIOR WARDEN – May the health of the brethren joined in this undertaking be preserved to them, and may the Supreme Grand Architect bless and prosper their labors.

(The Marshal then presents the cup of oil to the Junior Warden, who pours it upon the _____, saying:)

JUNIOR WARDEN – May the Supreme Rule of the world preserve these people in peace and vouchsafe them the enjoyment of every blessing.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – May Corn, Wine, and Oil, and all the necessaries of life, abound among men throughout the world: and may the blessings of Almighty God be upon this undertaking, and may the structure here erected be preserved to the latest ages.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – This concludes the ceremonies of the _____ Dedication.

SECTION 10
THE GRAND LODGE OF
ANCIENT, FREE AND ACCEPTED
MASONS OF MARYLAND

DEDICATION OF THE CORNERSTONE
OF MASONIC TEMPLES AND TOWN HALLS

ORDER OF PROCESSION

Grand Marshal	
Grand Tyler	
Junior Grand Steward (With Staff)	Senior Grand Steward (With Staff)
Grand Lecturer	Grand Pursuivant
Grand Sword Bearer	Grand Standard Bearer
Grand Chaplain	Grand Director of Ceremonies
Grand Secretary	Grand Treasurer
Junior Grand Warden	Senior Grand Warden
Deputy Grand Master	
Junior Grand Deacon (With Staff)	Senior Grand Deacon (With Staff)
Most Worshipful Grand Master	

(With the Grand Lodge Officers in proper line, the Grand Marshal will proceed up the driveway and will make the following proclamation:)

SILENCE! SILENCE! SILENCE!

BY VIRTUE OF THE POWER IN ME VESTED,
I PROCLAIM BROTHER (FULL NAME),
THE MOST WORSHIPFUL GRAND MASTER
OF MASONS IN MARYLAND.

(The Grand Lodge Officers will then proceed into the area in the proper order and place themselves around the Cornerstone in their redescribed positions.)

GRAND CHAPLAIN / SENIOR GRAND WARDEN
CORNERSTONE
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER / JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Right Worshipful Brother Senior Grand Warden, the Grand Lodge having been assembled for the purpose of Rededicating this Cornerstone, here erected, it is my order that the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge now proceed to the performance of that important ceremony. This, my will and pleasure, you will communicate to the Right Worshipful Junior Grand Warden, and he to the Brethren present, that all having due notice may govern themselves accordingly.

R.W. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN – Right Worshipful Brother Junior Grand Warden, it is the order of the Most Worshipful Grand Master that this Cornerstone be now rededicated with Masonic honors. This, his will and pleasure, you will proclaim to all present that the occasion may be observed with due order and solemnity.

R.W. JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN – Brethren, and all who are present, take notice that the Most Worshipful Grand Master will now rededicate this Cornerstone in Masonic form. You will observe the order and decorum becoming the important and solemn ceremonies in which we are about to engage.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – As no man should engage in any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity, let us pray.

W. GRAND CHAPLAIN – Almighty God, on Whom we build all our hopes for this life and the life to come, bless us in this moment of consecration, as we prepare to rededicate this Cornerstone. We thank Thee for those whose vision and planning now become a reality, as upon

these foundations a Masonic Temple/Town Hall has been erected to the glory and the cause of Freemasonry. Amen.

(The principal Architect, then presents the Working Tools to the Grand Master, who directs the Grand Marshal to present them to the Deputy Grand Master, Senior and Junior Wardens.)

(The Grand Master takes the Trowel, the Deputy Grand Master the Square, the Senior Grand Warden the Level, and the Junior Grand Warden the Plumb. The Grand Master standing in front of the Cornerstone, his Deputy on his right, the Senior Grand Warden at his left, and the Junior Grand Warden behind the Grand Master. The Grand Master then symbolically spreads the cements. The Square, Level, and Plumb are then symbolically applied to the Cornerstone by the proper officers.)

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Right Worshipful Brother Deputy Grand Master, what is the proper Jewel of your office?

R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER – The Square.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Have you applied the Square to those parts of the Cornerstone that should be Square?

R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER - I have, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Right Worshipful Brother Senior Warden, what is the proper Jewel of your office?

R.W. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN – The Level.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Have you applied the Level to those parts of the Cornerstone that should be Level?

R.W. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN – I have, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Right Worshipful Brother Junior Grand Warden, what is the proper Jewel of your office?

R.W. JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN – The Plumb.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Have you applied the Plumb to those parts of the Cornerstone that should be Plumb?

R.W. JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN – I have, Most Worshipful Grand Master, and the Craftsmen have done their duty.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Right Worshipful Brother Deputy Grand Master, see if the Cornerstone is well formed, true, and trusty.

R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER – I find this Cornerstone well formed, true, and trusty, and may this undertaking be conducted and completed by the Brethren according to the grand plan, in Peace, Love, and Harmony.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Having full confidence in your skill in the Royal Art, it remains with me to finish the work.

(The Grand Master then gives three knocks upon the Cornerstone saying:)

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Know all of you who hear me. We proclaim ourselves free and lawful Masons, true to the laws of our country, professing to fear God and confer benefits on mankind. We practice universal benevolence towards all. We have secrets concealed from the eyes of men which may not be revealed to any but Masons: they are, however, lawful and honorable. We are assembled in the open day, under the broad canopy of Heaven, to rededicate this Cornerstone. May God

prosper our handiwork as shall most please Him and may this Lodge Building/Town Hall continue for centuries a credit to the City of _____ and a blessing to the citizens thereof.

(The Deputy Grand Master, then receives from the Grand Marshal the cornucopia containing corn, and spreads the corn at the base of the Cornerstone, saying:)

R.W. DEPUTY GRAND MASTER – May plenty be showered upon the people of this City and State, and the blessing of the Bounteous Giver of all things attend their philanthropic undertakings.

(The Grand Marshal then presents the cup of wine to the Senior Grand Warden who pours it upon the Cornerstone, saying:)

R.W. SENIOR GRAND WARDEN – May the health of the brethren joined in this undertaking be preserved to them, and may the Supreme Grand Architect bless and prosper their labors.

(The Grand Marshal then presents the cup of oil to the Junior Grand Warden, who pours it upon the Cornerstone, saying:)

R.W. JUNIOR GRAND WARDEN – May the Supreme Rule of the world preserve these people in peace and vouchsafe them the enjoyment of every blessing.

M.W. GRAND MASTER – May Corn, Wine, and Oil, and all the necessaries of life, abound among men throughout the world: and may the blessings of Almighty God be upon this undertaking, and may the structure here erected be preserved to the latest ages.

(Public Grand Honors are then rendered by all in attendance, as the Grand Master says:)

M.W. GRAND MASTER – Brethren, join me in rendering Public Grand Honors.

W. GRAND CHAPLAIN – (*Benediction and a Prayer for the meal.*)

M.W. GRAND MASTER – This concludes the ceremonies of the Cornerstone Dedication.

SECTION 11

EMPTY CHAIR CEREMONY

This ceremony may be exercised at any regular tyled Lodge or may be utilized as a part of an open Lodge or similar setting among Masons, friends, and family. The purpose of this ceremony is to Honor those who served our Country and are no longer with us. It is particularly appropriate closer to Veteran's Day or Memorial Day.

The Vacant Chair:

A vacant chair may be brought into the Lodge or meeting room by processional, or may be placed in advance between the Altar and the chair in the west; or in any appropriate place in a non-Masonic meeting or banquet room. In an outdoor setting, it may be brought to the assembly preferably accompanied by appropriate music or again, in an appropriate position among those gathered.

Opening the Degree (after the Lodge is opened in due and normal form).

At the appropriate time, the Senior Warden or appropriate officer would announce, Worshipful Master, there is an alarm at the outer door.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Bro. _____ (*Appropriate officer by title*), you will attend to that alarm and see who seeks admission at this (*Lodge...Assembly of Brethren.*)

APPROPRIATE OFFICER – Worshipful Master, Comrades and Brethren who have fallen in service of their country seek admission here, not in person, but through spiritual presence that they seek our continued remembrance. It also through the special memory of our fallen Brother, (*Name, Military Service designation and rank*), that Brethren fallen honorably in all wars be remembered.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – My Brother, bid the entry of our fallen Brothers and the opening of our hearts to their memory.

(If a processional, a color party carrying the empty chair enters the room. The perambulation of the Lodge, room, or meeting space is

from the West to the North, cross even between the Worshipful Master and the Altar, if there is one; before the Junior Warden, then place it before the Worshipful Master in the East and facing West.)

(If there be no processional with color guard, the chair, draped in black, is placed by appropriate Brothers at the verbal request of the Worshipful Master.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – (*) Brother Senior Warden.

SENIOR WARDEN – *(Stands)* Worshipful Master.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Brother Senior Warden, it is my order that in recognition of our fallen Brother's presence, and his status as a Master Mason, that the apron of a Brother Master Mason be positioned as it would be were our Brothers present in body as well in spirit. You, or a Brother who has honorably served his country in uniform, will approach the seat of our Brothers' memory, and perform the honor.

(The Senior Warden or appointed Brother shall approach the East to receive the Member's Apron from the Worshipful Master. The Brother so designated, as well as the Worshipful Master and Senior Warden, should all be wearing such white gloves as would be used by the Lodge in Masonic funeral rites.)

(If a designated Brother, he marches at funeral pace to the chair, standing to the North side, facing the Senior Warden.)

SENIOR WARDEN – By this act we are reminded of the Masonic ideals of our fallen Brother and his fellows. We see in clear vision the Noble thoughts, generous impulses, words of truth, acts of love and deeds of mercy. The Masonic Apron represents these highest aspirations of a Brother in all ways, as each Brother knows they give to man his only genuine happiness, his lasting satisfaction. To these precepts our Brother willingly and gladly subscribed.

(The appointed Brother or the Senior Warden now marches at funeral pace to his own seat.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – (*) Our Brother _____ (*Name, Military Service designation and Rank*), having given himself freely not only to the obligations of the Degrees of Masonry, but also to the obligations of service to his ideals as his lights showed them, thereby garnered the honors of his peers in service, his superiors and those who looked to him for leadership. I now place these honors as decorations to his Masonic Apron. It is said a Man is made a Mason first in his heart. The Mason may have earned honors before, or after he is raised to the Sublime Degree. But as the world sees, those honors do not decorate his Masonry, but rather highlight the spirit which made both a Mason and a man of service.

(The Worshipful Master may posit the medals on the apron or call up an appointed brother as above to place the medals.)

(After medals are placed, the Worshipful Master or appointed Veteran faces West.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – These honors of mankind for our Brother, whether in material or purely from the heart, represent mankind's decoration upon a life of honor and service.

(The Worshipful Master or appointed Brother returns to his place.)

CHAPLAIN – Most Gracious God, Great Architect of the Universe, Author of all good, and Giver of all mercy, pour down, we implore Thee, Thy blessings upon us, and grant that the solemnity of this occasion may bind us yet closer together in the bonds of Brotherly Love. May the present instance of mortality forcibly remind us of our approaching and inevitable destiny, and weaning our affections from the things of this world, fix them more devotedly on Thee, our only safe refuge in the hour of need, and grant, O God, that when the summons shall come for us to

leave our transitory Lodge on earth, the light which is from above shall dispel the encircling gloom: and that departing hence with faith in Thee, in full hope of a resurrection and in charity with all men, we may, through Thy favor, be admitted to Thy Celestial Lodge on high, to partake in everlasting reunion with the souls of our departed friends and Brethren, the just rewards of a pious and virtuous life. Amen.

BROTHERS – So mote it be.

(A short recognition of the Brother's life by appropriate officer if desired.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – As we have recognized our Brother(s), and especially _____ (Our Brother _____,) let us take this also as both an affirmation of his virtue and recognition of our own frailty. Brothers, will you reenact with me the Masonic Service to a Brother raised to higher Lodge by first forming a circle around the vacant chair of our Brother and Brothers?

(The Worshipful Master walks to the chair to head a circle of Brothers around the chair, as circumstances permit, each with an evergreen sprig in his hand.)

(The Worshipful Master will then take the Evergreen in his hand and say:)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – This Evergreen is an emblem of immortality. Beyond this world of shadows, man has a glorious destiny, since, within this earthly tabernacle of clay, there abides an imperishable immortal spirit, over which the grave hath no power or death dominion.

(After the Worshipful Master has deposited his evergreen on the Apron, the other Brethren in order of rank if appropriate, or simply in moving the circle as a line at the order of the Worshipful Master each places his evergreen with his right hand as he passes on the

South upon the apron, and returns to his place in the circle, facing inward.)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Brethren, prepare for the Funeral Honors.

*(FUNERAL HONORS will then be given in the following manner:
The Brethren will extend their hands toward the grave, palms up.)*

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – We consign his body to the earth.

(The Brethren then cross theirs arms on their breast, the left uppermost, and the open palms resting on their shoulders;)

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – We cherish his memory here. (The Brethren will then raise their hands above their heads, looking upward,) We commend his spirit to God who gave it.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – Gracious God, rest our Brother, who has walked here with us. Everlasting lives give unto him, and if it be Thy will, lead him through the gates in the Eternal City. Amen.

ALL – So mote it be.

WORSHIPFUL MASTER – (Informally dismisses the Brothers, and returns to the Oriental Chair or podium and closes his Lodge in the normal form.)