

Memorial Ceremony

The Delta Chi Memorial Service should be a celebration of a deceased brother's life, love, and commitment to the betterment of his Brotherhood and mankind.

CEREMONY PROCEDURES

The preferable location for the ceremony is around the casket at the funeral, or grave side just prior to a burial ceremony (with permission from the family being required). If this is not possible, any of the following sites can be used:

- Funeral parlor (at a wake or gathering, with permission of the family)
- Chapter facility
- Regional Leadership Academy or International Convention

The place is not as important as the spirit of the ceremony. The roles of the "A" and "B" may be performed by other brothers who might have shared a special relationship with the deceased. No part of the ceremony is esoteric. The ceremony is an open celebration of a brother's life and commitment to Delta Chi, and can be performed in public or private.

All members present should be wearing the Fraternity badge draped in black, following the Delta Chi Law regulations on Mourning. Additionally, the Chapter's charter should also be draped in black, following the Delta Chi Law regulations on Draping the Charter.

The minimum items required are one white candle, a candlestick, a *Cornerstone*, and a white carnation. An additional candle may be needed for passing. The *Cornerstone* should be signed by all available members prior to the service. The arrangement of these items should be behind and above a casket, or placed with some personal items (such as the badge, photo, or shingle) of the deceased. The *Cornerstone* and white carnation should be placed next to the candle, which should be lit by the "A" prior to starting the ceremony.

VERIFICATION ON REFERENCES TO "HIGHER COURT"

In obtaining permission from the family or loved ones to perform the ceremony, you should ensure that they have no objection to the use of a reference to a "higher court."

Where that is an issue, you may make the following changes:

1. In the "BB" - Chapter Advisor's speech, delete the sentence: "This ceremony marks our way for him to enter that higher court."
2. In the "A"'s speech that immediately follows the "BB" - Chapter Advisor's speech, replace "Brothers draw near and witness the admittance of Brother [*Deceased Brother's Last Name*] to that higher court" with "Brothers draw near and witness this testimony to Brother [*Deceased Brother's Last Name*]'s service to his fraternity and fellow man."
3. Finally, in the "B"'s speech at the end of the ceremony, omit "until we too are worthy to enter that higher court" thus ending the sentence with the word "share."

MEMORIAL CEREMONY OF THE DELTA CHI FRATERNITY, INC.

“BB” - CHAPTER ADVISOR:

The ceremony we are about to perform has special meaning to our Deceased Brother and to those of us who are his Brothers. This ceremony marks our way for him to enter that Higher Court.

We are here to express our love, admiration, and friendship for our Brother _____ [Deceased Brother's Last Name], and to bid him a fond farewell at this parting. As he was loved by his Fraternity Brothers, we would like to take a few moments to express our feelings through this short ceremony. Brother _____ [Deceased Brother's Last Name] was a member of the Delta Chi Fraternity, which was founded in 1890 at Cornell University, and was established at _____ [University/College Name] in _____ [Year Chartered] where he became a member in _____ [Initiation Year].

Although we were originally founded as a Law Fraternity, we ultimately became a General Fraternity, offering all college men the opportunity to join in a close association to Promote Friendship, Develop Character, Advance Justice, and Assist in the Acquisition of a Sound Education.

“A”:

Brothers, draw near and witness the admittance of Brother _____ [Deceased Brother's Last Name] to that Higher Court.

Brothers will form a semi-circle around the deceased's casket or representative item. They will stand facing the candle and any others who are present (i.e. they will not block the view of the ceremony from family members or others who may be present). This may mean that the semi-circle will be formed at one end of the casket. The layout of the room or gravesite will dictate exactly what the best arrangement is. The “A” will lead the service, and should be opposite the semi-circle but in such a way that his back will not be towards the family for any length of time.

“A”:

Before us is a candle - symbolic of Brother _____ [Deceased Brother's Last Name] and his purity of purpose. As a member of The Delta Chi Fraternity, Brother _____ [Deceased Brother's Last Name] has carried forth the mission of The Knight Errant and now moves forward to continue his work at a level that we cannot fully comprehend. Brother _____ [Deceased Brother's Last Name] has served our Fraternity well and will be missed.

At this point a member can detail the accomplishments and contributions of the deceased. This person should be a close acquaintance of the deceased. If this is not practical, or where there may be more than one person, more brothers may speak. Each should make a brief statement regarding the deceased brother's service or his value to the brother speaking. If more than one brother is going to speak, the first brother to speak should light a white candle from the one that is currently burning. The candle should be passed from brother to brother as he speaks and then extinguish it after the last brother has spoken. Should only one brother speak, he should not light this additional candle. If the ceremony is being conducted in private, each person present should also be allowed to express his feelings about the deceased.

“A”:

Brother _____ [*Deceased Brother's Last Name*], your work on this Earth is done and we are honored that we have had the privilege to call you “Brother” and share with you the Bond of Delta Chi.

“B”:

As we mourn the passing of our brother, let his example encourage us to hold true to the principles we share, until we too are worthy to enter that Higher Court.

The “A” should present the copy of the Cornerstone and the carnation to the closest member of the deceased's family (if present). When presenting it, the “A” should state the following:

“A”:

We ask that these will serve as a reminder of the never ending love, admiration, and friendship we have all experienced with Brother _____ [*Deceased Brother's Last Name*].

After the presentation, the “A” and the rest of the brothers will return to their seats. The candle by the casket may be extinguished and removed after the family leaves.