



MEMORIAL SERVICE (ADULTS)

an open ceremony
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This service is appropriate to honor the memory of an Advisor, Senior DeMolay, or any other adult. It may be performed in the home or church, or as a memorial service within the Chapter room. It is not intended as a funeral service. It may either be open or private, at the Chapter's discretion. It may be used as an annual ceremony, to commemorate the death of all the adults involved with a Chapter, or it may be used for each adult who passes away. The wording assumes that multiple adults are being honored; when only one adult is being honored, the text should be changed appropriately to fit the situation.

This service is intended to be generic for all adults being honored, with three different types of adults specified. If the service is given in memory of only one particular type, the ceremony should be customized in the text where the words are bracketed

Required Parts: Master Councilor: M.C., Senior Councilor: S.C., Chaplain: Ch.

Required Paraphernalia: None.

Optional Paraphernalia: Gong.

- M.C.** Brethren and friends, as members of the Order of DeMolay we are gathered to pay tribute to the memory of our departed [friends, advisors and brethren,] taken from us while helping to guide us through the morning years of our lives. We are gathered to testify to their virtues, to offer the consolation of their fine lives to those who mourn, and to rededicate ourselves to the ideals that they professed.

Brother Senior Councilor, whom do we honor?.

S.C. reads each name, along with a summary of the person's DeMolay service and accomplishments. A gong may be rung once following the reading of each person.

- S.C.** (done)

- M.C.** The East is symbolic of the morning of life and from the station of the rising sun I bring the consolation of youth that began so well the journeys now ended. I bring the consolation of obligations to which our [friends, advisors and brethren] were true, of trusts to which they were faithful, of morning years that fulfilled their promise. They were good [sons and daughters]; they had reverent faith in the goodness of God; their lives were gentle with courtesy; they were trusted comrades; they were faithful to every ideal; their lives were clean in word and deed; they loved their country as loyal citizens; and they displayed all the virtues which our Order enjoins.

Brother Senior Councilor, what consolation do you bring?

- S.C.** The West is symbolic of the eve of life and I bring, from the station of the setting sun, the consolation of journeys ended and lives well-lived. I bring the sweetest consolation of all - the assurance of the holiest promises of our faith, the attainment of the goal of all our striving, the reward of all our hopes. Their lives are glorified with duties well-performed, and upon them shines the splendor of everlasting memory.

- M.C.** My brothers, the consolation we bring at this hour must lighten the grief that we all must feel. To those who were nearest and dearest to our departed [friends, advisors and brethren] , we extend our sorrowing sympathy. Words cannot lessen the sense of

irreparable loss, but we can take comfort in the infinite love of the universal Father. We hope the remembrance that they were worthy of the ideals of our Order, and deserved the commendation of all good men, will be a solace in the years to come.

Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

Ch. Our Father, the souls of our departed [friends, advisors and brethren] are with Thee. We commit them to Thy loving kindness and beseech Thee to send the peace of Thine infinite love to those closest to them. May we find comfort in the remembrance of their virtues; and gain a new inspiration from their lives. May we go from this place reconsecrated to the ideals of good citizenship and may we strive as never before to be worthy members of our Order. Amen.

ALL Amen.

M.C. May the holy inspiration of this hour abide with us. May we exemplify in our lives the virtues which we have praised in the lives of our [friends, advisors and brethren]. May we someday deserve the tributes we have paid this day to their memory. Amen.

APPENDIX

Pronouncing Glossary

bereavement	bĭ-rĕv'mĭnt. Being left alone through someone's death.
beseech	bĭ-sĕch'. To request earnestly; to beg for.
consolation	kŏn'sə-lā'shən. Something that gives relief or comfort.
irreparable	ĭ-rĕp'ər-ə-bəl. Impossible to repair.
portals	pŏr'tls. A means of entrance.
reconsecrate	rĕ-kŏn'sĭ-krāt'. To rededicate solemnly to a service or goal.
solace	sŏl'ĭs. Comfort in times of distress.