

Informal OES Memorial Flower/Ribbon Ceremony

Worthy Matron: (In the East):

“At this hour in our Chapter, we pause and pay Loving Tribute to those who have passed into the life of complete understanding. Our hearts are grateful for our many blessings, believing God doeth all things well. We thank Him for every Link in our Golden Chain and we know that when they are severed, one-by-one in Death, the parting is temporary and the meeting eternal. We realize how short our mortal life is in comparison to God’s Eternal Plan. All nature shows the steadfastness and Infinity of God and His great love and concern for all of us. The Colors of our Order depict all of these and as we place them on our Altar, we are reminded not only of their meaning in our Chapter, but of the Eternity of God.”

Soft music is played as the **Worthy Matron** and **Secretary** walk in unison to the Altar at the same time and stand to the East of the Altar.

Associate Matron, with the flowers in her hand, and the **Chaplain** walk, at the same time as the Worthy Matron and Secretary.

Associate Matron will stand between Ruth and Esther.

The **Chaplain** will stand between Esther and Martha.

After everyone is in position, the **Worthy Matron** will nod at the **Associate Matron** and she will walk, outside the labyrinth, to each of the Star Points, starting with Adah, and hand them the appropriate color of flower, then return to her place between Ruth and Esther.

Star Points stand by their chairs at the same time the **Worthy Matron** starts to walk, then turn toward the Altar after the **Associate Matron** hands them their flower.

Worthy Matron: “Blue is the color of the Heavens, God’s cover for His World, always there, Steadfast and Eternal.”

Adah: “In Memory of those who were brave and true, we place this flower of beautiful blue: that Symbol of Honor, duty, and right as gleaned from Adah’s bright Ray of Light!”

Adah walks behind her chair, and places the flower stem on the altar with the flower pointing toward her station. She returns to stand by her chair, facing the Altar.

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Worthy Matron: “Yellow is the color of the Moon, which controls so much of our World, always on its course.”

Ruth: “In Memory of those whose Faithfulness through menial labor aided the Distressed, we place this flower of Golden Hue, that symbol of Ruth’s Constancy True!”

Ruth walks behind her chair, and
places the flower stem on the altar
with the flower pointing toward her station.
She returns to stand by her chair, facing the Altar.

Worthy Matron: “White reminds us of the Stars, unchanging, Constant Beacons, guiding us to God.”

Esther: “In Memory of those pure and upright lives, and their true Loyalty, that never dies, we place this flower of purest White, that symbol of Esther’s Courage and Might!”

Esther goes behind her chair,
places the flower stem on the altar
with the flower pointing toward her station.
She returns to stand by her chair, facing the Altar.

Worthy Matron: “Green symbolizes the verdant growth of the Forests and Plains, illustrating God’s assurance of new life each Spring after a long Winter!”

Martha: “In Memory of those whose earnest Prayer, brought peace and rest in God’s loving Care; We place this beautiful Fern of Green, that symbol of Martha’s Faith Supreme!”

Martha goes behind her chair,
places the flower stem on the altar
with the flower pointing toward her station.
She returns to stand by her chair, facing the Altar.

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Worthy Matron: “Red is the Vibrant color of the Sunset, God’s promise of Rest and Awakening with Him.”

Electa: “In Memory of those whose fervent zeal for Loyalty to Truth and Service that’s real; we place this flower of Crimson hue, that symbol of Charity, Electa’s Virtue so true.”

Electa goes behind her chair,
places the flower stem on the altar
with the flower pointing toward her station.
She returns to stand by her chair, facing the Altar.

Chaplain: “Our Father, we thank Thee for the lives of those beloved by us and dear to the hearts of so many. Keep them safe in Your care for You have said, “I am the Resurrection and the Life....no Man cometh to the Father but by Me....” Bless us and help us to find Comfort in You, who is the great comforter of us all. Amen.”

Associate Matron: “Our colors give us hope of Eternal Life with God; so we mourn only the loss of the Earthly body of our departed Sisters and Brothers, not their Souls, happy and resting in God.”

Worthy Patron: “Sisters Conductress and Associate Conductress you will drape the Charter.”

Worthy Patron raps up the Chapter
Conductress and Associate Conductress drape the
charter then face the East holding the charter

Worthy Patron: Sister Secretary, you will read the names of those members we honor tonight.

Secretary reads the names

Worthy Matron: “A beautiful Life is that whose span is spent in the Service of God and Man; then secures a beautiful Peace when the Course is run, and a beautiful Light at the Set of the Sun. Amen.”

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- Worthy Matron, Secretary, Chaplain and Associate Matron all turn and return to their stations.
- After they are in their stations, the Conductress and Associate Conductress return the Charter to the East and then return to their Stations.
- Star Points return to their stations when the Conductress and Associate Conductress turn to return to their stations.

Worthy Matron: “Let’s sing, “Blest be the Tie that Binds.”

Worthy Matron raps the Chapter down.

Supplies Needed:

* flowers or ribbon in the Star Point colors

(if ribbon is used, you will need 1-inch wide Star Point color ribbons (total of 5) with each ribbon cut 18-inch long)