

Alpha Phi Omega



Rededication Ceremony

Alpha Phi Omega

75th Anniversary

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NUMBER OF SPEAKERS: 5

ROOM SET UP: *A table at the front of the room covered with a white tablecloth. On the table are seven gold candles, five blue candles, and one white candle. Only the white candle is lit at the beginning of the ceremony and is used to light the remaining candles as indicated throughout the ceremony. The gold candles are lined up in the center of the table with the five blue candles staggered in front of and between the gold candles. The room is dimly lit.*

SPEAKER #1

(Light a blue candle)

In honor of our 75th Anniversary which occurs on December 16, 2000, Brothers of Alpha Phi Omega, we are assembled here both to remember the guiding principles of our beloved Fraternity and to recommit ourselves to its cardinal principles of Leadership, Friendship, and Service. Those assembled will please stand. First let us honor our heritage by recalling the vision of our founder, Frank Reed Horton.

SPEAKER #2

(Light a blue candle)

Frank Reed Horton's experiences as a naval officer during World War I would shape his vision in two ways. First, the destruction caused by the conflict made him resolve to help nations around the world turn away from war and embrace more peaceful means to settle their disputes. Second, through his work as a lawyer handling court-martial cases, he saw a need to hold forth a set of principles to guide the lives of young people.

SPEAKER #3

(Light a blue candle)

He found these principles in the Boy Scout Oath and Law. While at Lafayette College he found 13 other students who shared his beliefs. On December 16, 1925, supported by the college faculty and six advisors, his dream became our duty embodied as Alpha Phi Omega. One year later, the second chapter was chartered at the University of Pittsburgh, and Alpha Phi Omega became a national movement. Brother Horton's accomplishments as the first national president included extending the Fraternity to 18 campuses and presiding at our fourth national convention in 1931.

Our Fraternity has benefited from the guidance of many outstanding leaders, but none perhaps more instrumental than Brother H. Roe Bartle. Elected National President at the 1931 Convention, the "Chief" served in that role for 15 years. Ninety-one chapters were added during his tenure, and Brother Bartle hired the first National Executive Director, Sidney B. North.

SPEAKER #4

(Light a blue candle)

The growth of the Fraternity has been considerable over the years. From one chapter in 1925 to over 350 active chapters in the United States today, Alpha Phi Omega continues to expand its membership in the U.S. and around the world. To date, over 290,000 Brothers have brought Leadership, Friendship, and Service to America's colleges and universities. Additionally, the worldwide movement envisioned by our founder is being realized in countries around the globe.

The membership requirement of Boy Scout affiliation was discontinued in 1967, but Scouting remains both an integral part of our service program and an important link to our rich heritage. In 1976 the honor of full membership was extended to women, strengthening the number of youth committed to Leadership, Friendship, and Service.

SPEAKER #5

(Light a blue candle)

We should also pause and recognize those Brothers who are no longer with us; many lost while serving in the fight for democracy during military conflicts abroad. Please join me now in a moment of silence as we honor their service and their sacrifice. *(Pause and bow heads for a brief moment.)*

SPEAKER #1

Our Fraternity was founded on the principles of Leadership, Friendship, and Service. This candle symbolizes Leadership.

(Light a gold candle.)

May each of us resolve to keep alive in our own characters the desire to be a leader and give others the example of effective personality.

This candle symbolizes Friendship.

(Light a gold candle.)

May each of us remember that the best way to have friends is to be one, and the true test of a friend lies in our treatment of people from whom we can expect no favors in return.

This candle symbolizes Service.

(Light a gold candle.)

May each of us devote ourselves in Service to others.

SPEAKER #2

As we celebrate 75 years of Leadership, Friendship, and Service, let us reflect upon the four fields of service:

Service to the College.

(Light a gold candle.)

Our host institutions have welcomed and supported our members and our activities for over seven decades and should be at the forefront of our service efforts for without them there could be no chapter.

Service to Members of the Fraternity

(Light a gold candle.)

Service and support to the members shall remain a vital component to fostering greater character and compassion to our fellow humankind.

SPEAKER #3

Service to the Youth of our Community.

(Light a gold candle.)

Recognizing the youth of today are the leaders of tomorrow, we should offer young people the full support and example of unselfish service.

Service to the Nation as Participating Citizens.

(Light a gold candle.)

We must strive to further the fundamental beliefs on which this nation was built: democracy and freedom. Responsible citizenship and civic duty are the means for achieving these noble ideals.

SPEAKER #4

The seven gold candles represent the seven decades of service Alpha Phi Omega has provided. The five blue candles represent five additional years for a total of 75 years of Being A Leader, Being a Friend, and Being of Service. Together the 12 candles stand for the 12 points of the Scout Law, one of the guiding principles of our Fraternity:

Trustworthy, Loyal, Helpful, Friendly, Courteous, Kind, Obedient, Cheerful, Thrifty, Brave, Clean, Reverent.

SPEAKER #5

The solemn oath we took upon becoming a member called for each of us to lead our Fraternity into the future, to bring Alpha Phi Omega to more colleges and universities across the nation and to spread Leadership, Friendship, and Service to all people of all nations.

In honor of the 75th Anniversary of our founding and with profound resolution, let us now rededicate our lives to serving humanity. Please raise your right hand and in the spirit of Leadership, Friendship, and Service, repeat after me:

**I do hereby rededicate myself
To live in the spirit of Leadership, Friendship, and Service;
To continue to give unselfishly of my time and energy;
To strengthen my chapter and my Fraternity, and
To advance this program of service into the next century,
So that Alpha Phi Omega may continue to grow and to serve
This campus,
The youth of all nations,
The members of the Fraternity,
And my nation.
To these aims,
I pledge my self
As a loyal and true Brother of Alpha Phi Omega.**

SPEAKER #1

We have reflected on the 75-year history of our Fraternity. We have pledged to meet the challenges of the future with a renewed dedication to our shared purpose. Alpha Phi Omega stands upon the threshold of a new millennium of Leadership, Friendship and Service.

SPEAKER #2

From 14 Founders...

SPEAKER #3

To over 290,000 Members.

SPEAKER #4

From one (*insert chapter name, alumni association, section, region*)...

SPEAKER #5

To over 350.

SPEAKER #1

From one man...

SPEAKER #2

To all people.

SPEAKER #3

May *(insert chapter name, alumni association, section, region)* ever stand united. I now declare this rededication ceremony duly adjourned. Let us form our Fellowship Circle and sing the Toast Song.

Sing Toast Song, End of Ceremony