

MEMORIAL CEREMONY

The following ceremony is intended to assist a Chapter in paying tribute to a deceased Brother (including all types of membership as in the National Bylaws, Article III, Section 2). This ceremony is to be used at the Chapter's discretion and may be altered as necessary. The intent is for the ceremony to remain flexible so it can be personalized to pay sufficient tribute to the deceased. Grieving nonBrothers (friends, family, etc.) may be invited and/or involved in the ceremony so as to help them in their healing process.

Ritual

Preparation: *Five candles, one white candle to represent the departed; three blue candles, one for each of the Cardinal Principles of Leadership, Friendship, and Service; and one gold candle to represent the spirit of brotherhood.*

Brother #1 should hold Candle #1. Set the remaining four candles on a table with the three blue candles in front of the gold candle. Option: Note the whole ceremony could be done by one Brother.

BROTHER #1: On _____, the birth of

Date of Birth

_____ made the world a brighter place. And on

Full Name

_____, _____'s initiation/induction

Date of Initiation/Pledging

Full Name

into Alpha Phi Omega added her/his warmth and light to the eternal flame of our great Fraternity. _____

First Name

shared with us her/his Leadership, made us smile with her/his Friendship and made the world a better place in which to make a living and a life by giving unselfishly in Service to others. (During this time she/he has served the Fraternity as (offices) and earned (awards) etc).

We come here this day/night to mourn the passing and celebrate the life of _____.

First Name

BROTHER #2: We mourn the loss of _____'s

Full Name

leadership. May those who she/he has led learn from her/his examples of leadership to become better leaders themselves. In this way _____'s leadership will live on.

Full Name

Light candle #2 with candle #1

BROTHER #3: We mourn the loss of _____'s

Full Name

friendship. Those here who celebrate _____'s

Full Name

life are brought together by her/his passing. May those here share of themselves and their memories, becoming friends and comforting themselves. In this way _____'s friendship will live on.

Full Name

Light candle #3 with candle #1

BROTHER #4: We mourn the loss of _____'s
Full Name

service. Many have been touched by her/his service. May all those who have been helped turn one day to help another, reminded by the service once rendered to them. In this way, _____'s service will continue.
Full Name

Light candle #4 with candle #1

BROTHER #1: The Fraternity is an unbroken circle of brotherhood and _____'s spirit of Leadership,
First Name

Friendship and Service will forever be with us to keep our circle strong. We will now celebrate _____'s
First Name

life with us as those of us here may share memories of _____. Would those willing to share events
First Name

from _____'s life please come forward and share
First Name
those memories now. *(Pause)*

Let us now celebrate the life and the spirit of _____
First Name

and the eternal strength of our brotherhood by forming our fellowship circle. Let our circle remain strong in the memory of _____ and let us now sing our Toast Song.
First Name

Sing the Toast Song.

BROTHER #1: The spirit of Alpha Phi Omega is eternal and _____ will forever be a part of that spirit. A Brother
First Name

who added light to the Fraternity for Service will always be with us and kindled in our hearts even when the light of the candle is out. In this way _____'s spirit will live on
First Name

within our hearts and within our Brotherhood. *(Light Candle #5 with Candle #1)*. Let us have a moment of silence to honor the spirit of _____. *(Pause)*
Full Name

In Leadership, Friendship and Service, my Brother, rest in peace.

Extinguish candle #1 in a dignified fashion.

End of Memorial Ceremony