8th District Memorial Association

Mission Statement

A singular right of a Master Mason is the right to the Rite of Masonic Burial. Masonic burial services are one of the first and, perhaps, the most important duties of a Lodge to its members. It is the duty of the Worshipful Master of a deceased Brother's Lodge to provide for and conduct that last sad tribute of respect for a deceased Brother Master Mason in good standing. However, many Lodges throughout this great state do not have brethren sufficiently proficient and comfortable in the proper presentation of the Masonic burial services. And many Lodges throughout this great state do not have adequate membership available on short notice to provide for proper Masonic representation to pay that last sad tribute of respect to the memory of a deceased Brother,

Therefore, this Memorial Association has been formed for the purpose of assisting the Master, Wardens and Brethren of any Lodge, when requested, in the proper display of the last sad tribute of respect to the memory of a deceased Brother Master Mason.

Masonic Burial Service
Check List

Master, Director and Brethren need to arrive 1 hour early to get the lay of the land!
Senior Deacon needs to assist Director in his Duties.

Deceased in Good Standing and Master Mason.
Deceased Lodge Name_____No. _____
Verify-Dates EA _____FC_____MM_____
Name of Deceased_____
Deceased or Family must request. YES ( )
Deceased can't have Grave Side Service if Cremated! Ask!
Deceased Lodge must be open. Follow code.
Who is Lodge Contact_____
Phone _____?
Name of Church_____
Address of Church_____
Location of Gravesite_____
Address of Grave_____
GPS Co-ordinates _____
Date_____
Time_____
Inform Brethren of Dress Code
(Dark Suit and Tie Preferable)

List of Officers for Funeral

Master_____
Chaplain_____
Director_____
SW_____
JW_____
SD_____
JD_____
SS_____
JS_____
Tyler_____
Treasurer_____
Secretary_____

Prop Check List

Masters Hat( )
Ritual( )
Deacon and Steward Staffs()
Acacia ( )
Aprons ( )
1 Apron with Strings Cut ( )
Armbands ( )
Gloves ( )
Tylers Sword ( )
In Memoriam Card ( )

Public Grand Honors

(The Public Grand Honors are given in the following manner: Both arms are crossed over the breast, with the left over the right, and the palms hands striking the shoulders; they are then raised above the head the palms striking each other, and then made to fall sharply on the thighs, with head bowed. This is given three times. While the honors are being given the third time, when the arms are crossed on the breast say: "We cherish his memory here." When the hands are extended over the head, say: "We commend his spirit to God who gave it," and when the hands are brought to thighs, say: "We consign his body to the ground.")

Burial Procession and Layout Guide



Back of Hearse

WM
SD
SW
CHP
TRE
P
P
P
B
B
B
SrSt

LINE ORDER

1. FAMILY
2. WM, ALONE HAT in HAND
3. SD, JD
4. SW, JW
5. CHAP, DIRECTOR
6. TREAS, SEC
7. PM
8. BRETHREN
9. SS, JS
10. TYLER, Alone

JD
JW
DIR
SEC
P
P
B
B
B
Jr. St
Tyl

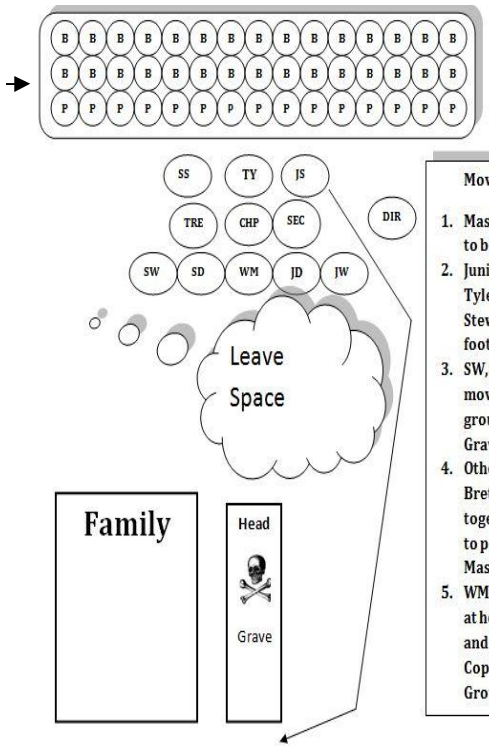
Position of Brethren at Grave during Religious Service

ROW 1 (CURRENT GRAND LINE OFFICERS)
PGM, PM BRETHREN →

If any Grand Officers are present they have the right to officiate in the order of their seniority. Therefore, after that is determined, next should be the remaining Grand Officers by stations, then Past Grand Masters, then the rest of us as laid out. At the grave, First line, Grand Officers, next line, Past Grand Masters. This would be subject to change depending on what Senior Grand Officer wishes.

Notes:

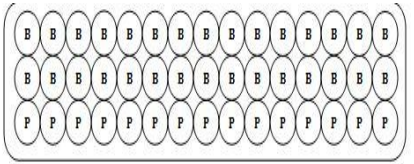
Position of Brethren at Grave during Religious Service

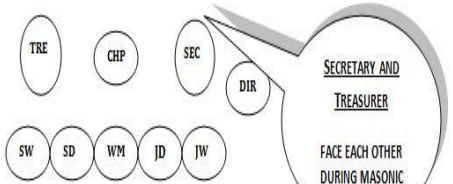


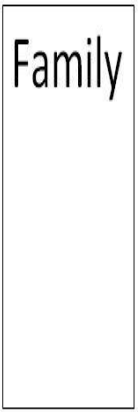
Masonic Service Layout

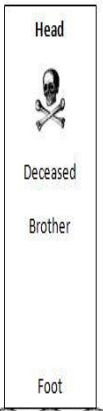
- **Worshipful Master in Charge**
- **Director is responsible with (Master determining layout), for directing Brothers where to stand (Past Master on Front Rows), public honors, brethren clothed properly (White Aprons or White Aprons with Black Border only, No Officers Jewels or Aprons, reason: returning to that place where we are all on the level), where and when to put Acacia, procession thru family line, etc.**
- **Senior Deacon to Assist Director in all the above.**
- **Master puts on Hat at end of religious service, Key for Junior Steward, Tyler and Sr. Steward. Master is only one to wear hat once service starts.**

Masonic Service Layout

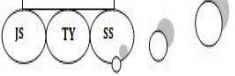












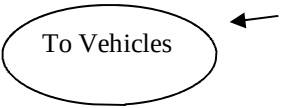


Conclusion

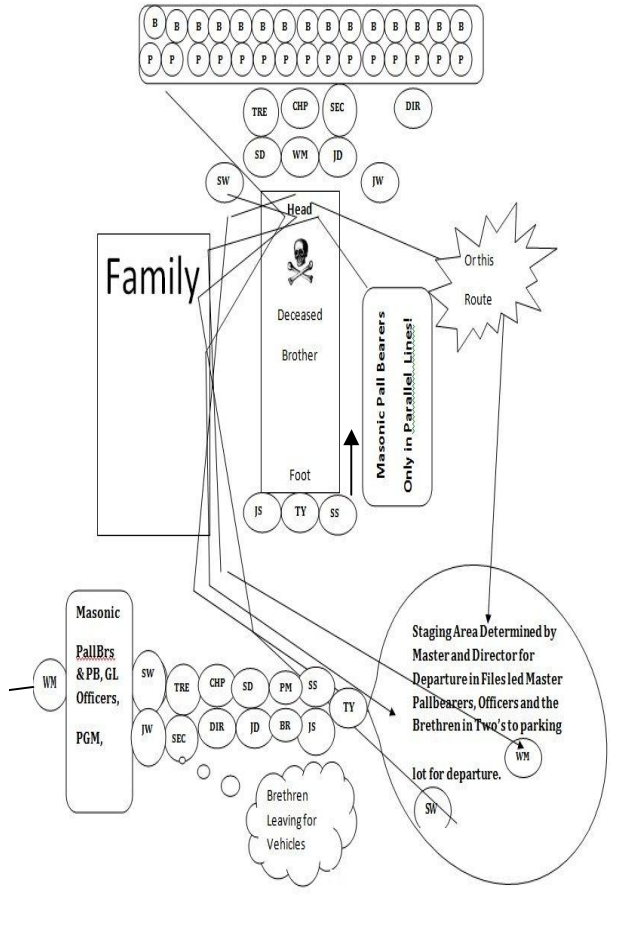
- Worshipful Master lets Preacher to go thru family line to offer condolences first.

- Worshipful Master then proceeds thru line followed by Masonic Pall Bearers, SW, SD, JD, JW, Dir, Trea, Chap, Sec, SS, Tyl, JS, Past Masters, and Brethren. ***Brethren pass in front of coffin, deposit acacia.***

- ***ONLY those Brethren desiring to go thru family go to right of coffin. Those brethren desiring not to go thru family line go left of coffin.*** ALL proceed to designated area in two lines. All will march to street in order.



Conclusion


B B B B B B B B B B B B B B B
P P P P P P P P P P P P P P P
TRE
CHP
SEC
DIR
SD
WM
JD
SW
JW
Head
Family
Deceased
Brother
Foot
JS
TY
SS
Masonic Pall Bearers
Only in Parallel Lines!
Or this
Route
Masonic
PallBrs
& PB, GL
Officers,
PGM,
WM
SW
JW
TRE
CHP
SD
PM
SS
TY
SEC
DIR
JD
BR
JS
Staging Area Determined by Master and Director for Departure in Files led Master Pallbearers, Officers and the Brethren in Two's to parking lot for departure.
WM
SW
Brethren Leaving for Vehicles

FUNERAL AT GRAVE

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

We have assembled here today as Freemasons to pay our respects to the memory of a deceased Brother whose remains lie before us and to inter them with Masonic Rite.

Brother Chaplain, lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN

Almighty and most merciful Father, we adore Thee as the God of time and eternity. As it hath pleased Thee to take from the light of our abode one dear to out hearts, we beseech Thee to bless and sanctify unto us this dispensation of Thy Providence. Inspire our hearts with wisdom from on high, that we may glorify Thee in all our ways. May we realize that Thine. All-Seeing Eye is upon us, and be influenced by the spirit of truth and love to perfect obedience, that we may enjoy Thy divine approbation here below. And when our toils on earth shall have ended, may we be raised to the enjoyment of fadeless light and immortal life in that kingdom where

faith and hope shall end and love and joy prevail through eternal ages. And Thine, O Righteous Father, shall be the glory forever. Amen!

BRETHREN

So mote it be!

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

The solemn notes that betoken the dissolution of this earthly tabernacle have again alarmed our outer door, and another spirit has been summoned to the land where our fathers have gone before us.

Again we are called to assemble among the habitations of the dead, to behold the "Narrow house appointed for all living." Here, around us, in that peace which the world can neither give nor take away, sleep the unnumbered dead. The gentle breeze fans their verdant covering, but they heed it not the sunshine and the storm pass over them, and they are not disturbed; stones and lettered monuments symbolizing the affection of surviving friends, yet no sound proceeds from them, save that silent but thrilling

admonition. “Seek ye the narrow path and the strait gate that lead unto eternal life."

From time immemorial it has been the custom of Freemasons to escort the mortal body of a Brother to its final resting place, where in fraternal sympathy the Masonic service of interment is given in his honor.

All that is mortal of our beloved Brother lies before us; the earthly house of his immortal life has fallen. It is the inevitable adventure of us all, which no wealth or honor, no power or station can avert. Once again we meet upon the level—the common level of a great sorrow. Let us remember that while we are but human, we partake, as well, of the Divine nature, and, as children of the Heavenly Father, have been taught to trust the power that doeth all things well, in death as in life.

One subject upon which Masonry sounds no uncertain note is the doctrine of the immortality of the soul. We have implicit faith that we shall meet again and be reunited with those whom we have long loved and lost for a while.

(The Master Displaying the Apron in his hand, says)

The Lambskin or white leather Apron is an emblem of innocence, and the time-honored badge of a Free and Accepted Mason—more ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle; more honorable than the Star and Garter, when worthily worn. This emblem I now give to you (Wife or Family Member) by it we are reminded that through the universal dominion of death our Brother has finished his earthly labor, and his account now rests with God.

(The Master holding the sprig of evergreen in his hand, says)

The evergreen, which once marked the temporary resting place of the illustrious dead, is an emblem of our faith in the Immortality of the soul. By it we are reminded that we have an immortal part within us that shall survive the grave and which shall NEVER, NEVER, NEVER DIE! By it we are admonished that, though like our Brother whose remains lie before us, we shall soon be clothed in the habiliments of death and deposited in the silent tomb, yet, through our belief in the mercy of God, we may confidently hope that our souls will bloom in eternal spring. This,

too I give to you!(Wife or Family member)

"Alas, my Brother!"

WORSHIPFUL MASTER
(May call for a song to be rendered)

FUNERAL HONORS

(The Public Grand Honors are given in the following manner: Both arms are crossed over the breast, with the left over the right, and the palms hands striking the shoulders; they are then raised above the head the palms striking each other, and then made to fall sharply on the thighs, with head bowed. This is given three times. While the honors are being given the third time, when the arms are crossed on the breast say: "We cherish his memory here." When the hands are extended over the head, say: "We commend his spirit to God who gave it," and when the hands are brought to thighs, say: "We consign his body to the ground.")

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

(Gives the Public Grand Honors.)

(The third time—both arms crossed over the breast.)

We cherish his memory here!

(Bring palms together over the head, looking upward.)

We commend his spirit to the God who gave it!

(Bring the hands quickly to the thighs with the head bowed.)

We consign his body to the ground!

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

In as much as it has pleased Almighty God, in His infinite wisdom to take unto Himself the spirit of our deceased Brother, we therefore commit his body to the earth.

Earth to earth!

> **(Earth being sprinkled on coffin or dust shaken in air.)**

Ashes to ashes!

(Earth being sprinkled on coffin or dust shaken in air.)

Dust to dust!

(Earth being sprinkled on coffin or dust shaken in air.)

There to remain until the trump shall sound on the res-urrection morn. We can confidently leave him in the hands of a Being who doeth all things well:

Who is Glorious in Holiness! Fearful in Praise! Doing Wonders!

To the relatives and friends who are most heart-stricken at the loss you have sustained, we can only offer our most sincere and affectionate sympathy in this your bereavement, and commend you to the loving care of our Heavenly Father, Who looks down with infinite compassion upon you in the hour of your desolation and Who will fold the arms of His love and protection around those who put their trust in Him.

Brother Chaplain, lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN

Almighty God, we ask Thy blessing as we turn from these solemn services to the no less solemn tasks of life. We have consigned our Brother to the grave, and with unfaltering trust we commend thy Spirit to Thy care.

Gathering here such fresh experience of Thy love, catching here such glimpses of the exceeding glory that awaits us, may we feel that it is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting. And now, O Lord, we pray for Thy hand to lead us in all the paths our feet must tread; and when the journey of life is ended, may light from our immortal home illumine the dark valley of the shadow of death, and voices of loved ones welcome us to that "house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens." Amen!

BRETHREN

So mote it be!

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Soft and safe to thee, my Brother, be this thy earthly bed. Fragrant be the acacia

sprig that here shall flourish. May the earliest buds of spring unfold their beauties upon this, thy resting place; and here may the sweetness of the summer rose linger latest. Though the cold blast of autumn may lay them in the dust, and for a time destroy the loveliness of their existence, yet their destruction is not final, and in the springtime they shall bloom again. So, in the bright morning of the world's resurrection, may thy mortal frame now laid in the dust by the chilling blast of death, spring again into the newness of life, and expand, in immortal beauty, in realms beyond the skies!

Until then, farewell my Brother----- FAREWELL!!!!

Brother Chaplain, you will pronounce the Benediction.

CHAPLAIN

Grant unto our Brother eternal refreshment and rest, 0 Lord, and let Thy mystic light perpetually shine upon him.

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord

make his face to shine upon us and be gracious unto us. The Lord lift up His countenance upon us, and give us peace both now and forevermore. Amen!

BRETHREN

So mote it be!

WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Brethren, this concludes our service.

(Thus the service ends, and the procession will return to the place whence it came or be dismissed as directed by the Worshipful Master.)

NOTES: