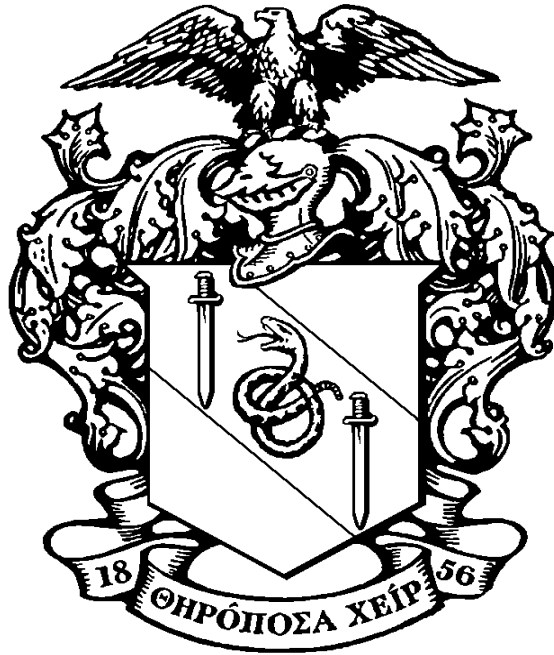


# PUBLIC RITUAL



## THETA CHI FRATERNITY

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**PUBLIC RITUAL**  
**OF THE**  
**THETA CHI FRATERNITY**



**PUBLISHED BY**  
**THE GRAND CHAPTER,**  
**THETA CHI FRATERNITY, INC.**

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## FOREWORD

The Ritual of Theta Chi Fraternity has been a matter of evolution. Regrettably, it is impossible to trace all of the work that has been done on the Ritual so as to give full credit to all participating members.

The first known written copy of the Initiation Ritual appears in a small booklet with leather binding. It is kept in a bank safe deposit vault along with the original Constitution and other priceless archives of the Fraternity. This copy, written in longhand, bears the date "April 1863", and contains a notation to the effect that it was presented to Alpha Chapter "by the members from New York State." Since the handwriting on the Ritual paper is the same as that appearing on the fly leaf covering the presentation, it is assumed that it was copied from earlier existing copies, or produced from memory.

The 1995 edition of the Ritual is divided into two distinct parts as separate publications—the Private Ritual, which contains those Ceremonies which only initiated members may view, and the Public Ritual which contains the following Ceremonies: Pledging, Big Brother, Alumni, Deceased Brother and Memorial. The Big Brother Ceremony is new. The Ceremony for a Deceased Brother replaces the Burial Service, and the Memorial Service is an extensive revision. All Ceremonies in the Public Ritual may be viewed by non-members.

The 1995 edition of the Ritual was prepared by a committee appointed by the Grand Chapter in 1991. The Ritual Committee consisted of Fr. Philip T. Bowers (Alpha Delta) and Danny P. Kaiser (Alpha Mu), Chairs, Allan J. Calarco (Eta Pi), Joseph R. D'Amore, Jr. (Eta Pi), Fulton S. Hamilton (Alpha Phi), and James J. Moylan (Gamma Lambda). A number of drafts of the various ceremonies were tested by undergraduate chapters with their comments incorporated in succeeding versions. This 1995 Ritual of Theta Chi Fraternity was approved at the 138th Anniversary Convention in 1994 at Scottsdale, Arizona. The Ritual Review Committee at the Convention consisted of Greg Barr (Gamma Xi), Jonathan Cummings (Alpha Gamma), Jonathan Ebmeier (Gamma Phi), William Keller (Delta Alpha), Jarrod Kittleson (Phi), Nathan Mitchell, Chair (Epsilon Kappa), Eric Raasch (Alpha Upsilon), Chris Rehfeld (Zeta Delta), Todd Younger (Theta Rho), and David Ytreboe (Theta Beta).

## COAT OF ARMS OF THETA CHI FRATERNITY



The description of the Coat of Arms of Theta Chi Fraternity, in heraldic phraseology, is as follows:

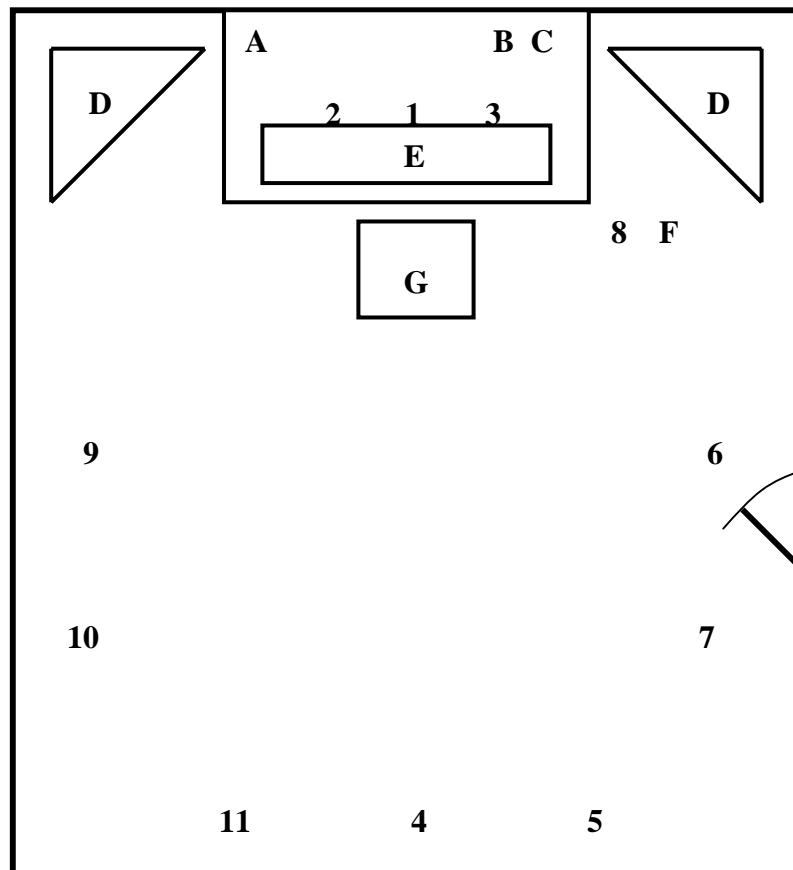
*Or, on bended gules, a nowed serpent between two swords, points downward, palewise, all of the first.. On an Esquire's helmet the Crest, an eagle displayed Or.*

*Motto, ΘΗΡΟΠΟΣΑ ΧΕΙΡ*

## STATIONS OF OFFICERS

- |                         |  |
|-------------------------|--|
| 1. President            | At the head of the Chapter Room on dias                        |
| 2. Vice President       | At the President's right.                                      |
| 3. Secretary            | At the President's left.                                       |
| 4. Treasurer            | At the opposite end of the Chapter Room facing the President.  |
| 5. Marshal              | At the Treasurer's right.                                      |
| 6. First Guard          | At the entrance door to the Chapter Room.                      |
| 7. Second Guard         | At the left of the Secretary facing the Altar.                 |
| 8. Chaplain             | At the left of the Secretary facing the Altar.                 |
| 9. Librarian            | At the side of the Chapter Room on Chaplain's right (or left). |
| 10. Historian           | At the Librarian's right.                                      |
| 11. Assistant Treasurer | At the Treasurer's left.                                       |

- A. United States Flag (Canadian Flag in Canada)
- B. Canadian Flag (United States Flag in Canada)
- C. Theta Chi Fraternity Flag
- D. Areas for guest seating
- E. Table
- F. Lectern
- G. Altar



# NEW MEMBER CEREMONY

## A. Preparations

The New Member Ceremony is purposely kept brief and simple so that it will not detract from the formal ritualistic works associated with initiation and conduct of meetings. It may be used in the presence of the Chapter for one or more new member candidates. None of the ritualistic ceremonies or terminology of the Private Ritual should be revealed. Non-member guests, such as parents, may attend this Ceremony. Appropriate attire for Brothers and New Member Candidates is coat and tie.

### 1. *Personnel required:*

- a. President, Secretary, Chaplain, Recruitment Chairman, Marshal and Chapter Advisor.
- b. If there are a large number of new members, additional Brothers may be designated to assist with the New member emblems.
- c. During the entire Ceremony, the Brothers should stand forming a Hollow Square (refer to Page 60 of the Private Ritual) WITHOUT arms crossed. If non-members are present, they may remain seated, in an appropriate location, throughout the Ceremony (See Stations of Officers).
- d. The New Member Candidates should be assembled in an adjoining room and be assembled to enter in alphabetical order by last name.

### 2. *Properties required:*

- Theta Chi Flag
- Altar of Theta Chi (See Page 9, Private Ritual)
- United States Flag
- 3 tall red tapered candles, unlit
- Canadian Flag
- New member Emblems, 1 for each New Member
- One red carnation in a bud vase
- Bible, opened to Genesis 1:1
- One large red candle, at least three inches in diameter, (to remain lit during ceremony)
- Gavel

3. List of New Members' names, in alphabetical order, with hometown, and state or province.

## B. Script for the New Member Ceremony

*An asterisk \* denotes one rap of the gavel*

PRESIDENT-- \* Brother Recruitment Chairman, is all in readiness for the New Member Ceremony?

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN—Yes, the New Member Candidates are assembled and await further instruction.

PRESIDENT—(*To assembled guests, if any. Omit if no guests are present.*) I welcome our guests to this Ceremony by which we formalize the commitment between our Chapter and our New Members. We are pleased that you are here to witness this special event. As these men begin their journey with us, we will ask them to state their commitment, we will declare our support for them, and we will celebrate their decision to join us.

*(Pause)*

Brother Recruitment Chairman, conduct the New Member Candidates before the Altar of Theta Chi Fraternity.

*Recruitment Chairman retires to bring the candidates into the meeting room, assembled in alphabetical order by last name, facing the Altar. More than one line may be used depending on the number of candidates. Candidates will remain standing throughout the Ceremony.*

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN—(*Addressing the Candidates*) New Member Candidates, I am pleased to present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity.

PRESIDENT—(*Addressing the Candidates*) We welcome you to this moment in the history of Theta Chi Fraternity and express our happiness that on this day you have chosen to follow in our footsteps. It is a lifetime journey on which you embark, but let me assure you that you will not walk alone, nor will you walk in darkness. You will walk with all the men of Theta Chi Fraternity who believe in and exemplify the values of our Brotherhood.

We are not just another group on this campus. Rather, we are a Brotherhood bound together by a sincere desire to grow in excellence in every aspect of our lives. The environment of this excellence is a personal development of honor and integrity. It is a Brotherhood that cares for its members. We will call on you to give well of your talents and gifts, and we expect you to call us to that same challenge. In this we live our Brotherhood's motto of "The Helping Hand."

This is a day to rejoice, for once again we begin the process of adding new strength to our membership. Brother Secretary, please call the roll of the men who first offered their Pledge to our Fraternity and those who come before us today.

SECRETARY—Frederick Norton Freeman, Claremont, New Hampshire, April 10, 1856;  
Arthur Chase, Bellows Falls, Vermont, April 10, 1856;  
Edward Bancroft Williston, Sand Diego, California, April 11, 1856;  
Lorenzo Potter, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, April 11, 1856.  
These were our first Brothers. On this day, those who will follow are asked to take one step forward as his name is called.

*The Secretary reads the list of new member candidates, including their full name and hometown.*

PRESIDENT—Gentlemen, there are purposes to this Fraternity of which you are about to become a New Member. Many can be found in our Creed. Listen as my Brothers join me in reciting the Creed of Theta Chi Fraternity.

*(Pause)*

ALL BROTHERS—I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, Nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance and Tolerance, extols virtue, exacts Harmony and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow man.

PRESIDENT—*(Pause)* Thank you, Brothers. *(Pause, then speaking to Candidates.)* New Member Candidates, I understand that each of you have expressed your desire to become a New Member of Theta Chi Fraternity at \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name of institution.)* If so, answer, "I have."

CANDIDATE(S)—I have.

PRESIDENT—The use of the term "Pledge", as derived from the word, means a promise or oath. You will now be asked to make a solemn Pledge as to your desire to join Theta Chi Fraternity and to your future conduct as a New Member. I can assure you that this will not restrain you in any manner from serving your Alma Mater loyally, or living as a valued citizen, and as an honorable gentleman. With this assurance, are you willing to make this Pledge and become a New Member? If so, answer, "I am."

CANDIDATES—I am.

PRESIDENT—The Chaplain will now administer the Pledge.

CHAPLAIN—For your understanding, I will first recite the Pledge in full.

"I (State your name in full) will accept my New member emblem of Theta Chi Fraternity, and all those things, consistent with honor, for which it stands. I agree to wear it at all appropriate times until such time as I may be allowed to wear the Badge of Theta Chi. I agree to abide by all of the rules of this Fraternity in the same manner as a member; to conduct myself at all times as a gentleman, and to honor my country, my Alma Mater and this Fraternity."

Candidate(s), please repeat after me:

"I (Name in full)/ will accept my New member emblem/ of Theta Chi Fraternity,/ and all those things,/ consistent with honor,/ for which it stands./ I agree to wear it at all appropriate times/ until such time as I may be allowed/ to wear the Badge of Theta Chi./ I agree to abide by/ all of the rules of this Fraternity/ in the same manner as a member;/ to conduct myself/ at all times as a gentleman,/ and to honor my country, my Alma Mater and this Fraternity."

ALL BROTHERS—We are witnesses to this, your solemn Pledge.

PRESIDENT—In consideration of the solemn Pledge you have made, it is my pleasure and privilege as President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, duly constituted under the By-Laws of our International Fraternity, to accept your pledge to honor Theta Chi Fraternity. Therefore, in the name of this Chapter and by the virtue of my authority as Chapter President, I hereby present you with your New Member emblem as a symbol of your acceptance as a New Member of Theta Chi Fraternity.

*The President, assisted by the Marshal, affixes the New Member emblems. The New Member emblem is worn over the heart in the same location as is the Badge of Theta Chi.*

PRESIDENT— Full membership in Theta Chi Fraternity is for life. It is therefore customary that alumni participate in many of our activities by contributing their experience, talents and knowledge. Our Chapter Advisor, Financial Advisor, Faculty Advisor and alumni board members will consult with us in many of our Chapter affairs Brother \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ (Title) \_\_\_\_\_, you will address our New Members.

*This following section should, ideally, be presented by the Chapter Advisor. If this is not possible, another advisor or alumnus may do so.*

CHAPTER ADVISOR— During your time as a New Member, and later as an initiated member of our Fraternity, much will be expected of you. I charge you to be cognizant of your obligation to your Alma Mater, upon which this Fraternity depends. Be diligent in your studies that you may bring honor to yourself and to your Chapter. Learn about our Fraternity and the principles for which it stands. The Brothers of Theta Chi Fraternity are here to teach, guide and assist you. Call upon them. Their actions will demonstrate to you the true meaning of Brotherhood.

PRESIDENT— Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN— Gracious and loving God, we ask Your blessing on our New Members, their families and on our Brotherhood. Guide us on this journey we have begun together. Grant us vision and hope, patience and accountability, and give us insight to the tradition of Brother helping Brother in mind and heart and spirit. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

PRESIDENT— *(To assembled guests, if any. Omit the first sentence if no guests are present.)*

You are now New Members of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. The success or failure of the goals of this Chapter depend upon the effort and conduct of each of us. You may rest assured that the helping hand of Theta Chi will always be available at your request. Welcome and congratulations to each of you.

"There is a destiny that makes us Brothers. None goes his way alone. All that we send into the lives of others, comes back into our own."

As President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity and on behalf of all its members, I wish to acknowledge and thank our guests for witnessing this Ceremony. Each New Member made choices that brought him to this campus and to this Fraternity. The initiated members of this Chapter made the same choices. I wish to assure those assembled here today that it is our avowed purpose to enhance the dignity of those choices. *(Pause)* Alma Mater first and Theta Chi for Alma Mater.

This concludes the work of the New Member Ceremony. Love and respect all of your Brothers. Please join me in welcoming our New Members. \*

*Finis, New Member Ceremony*

*If prepared to do so, the Chapter may proceed with the Big Brother Ceremony at this point.*

# BIG BROTHER CEREMONY

## A. Preparations

1. *Personnel required:*
  - a. Officers: President, Marshal, Chaplain  
Big Brother Candidate for each New member.
  - b. If Big Brothers have been selected in time, it is recommended that the Big Brother Ceremony immediately follow the New Member Ceremony.
  - c. Some Chapters use the terms "Pledging Father" and "Pledge Son" rather than "Big Brother" and "Little Brother". This is acceptable. The terminology in the Ceremony may be changed to reflect that preference.
  - d. The expectations of the role and responsibilities of the Big Brother should be explained, discussed and agreed upon by the Chapter prior to conducting this Ceremony.
2. *Properties required*
  - ❑ Theta Chi Fraternity Flag
  - ❑ Altar of Theta Chi (See Page 9, Private Ritual)
  - ❑ United States Flag
  - ❑ White Altar Cloth
  - ❑ Canadian Flag
  - ❑ Bible
  - ❑ Three tall red tapered candles in clear or white glass individual holders
  - ❑ One large red candle, at least three inches in diameter, lighted
  - ❑ One red carnation in bud vase
3. During the entire Ceremony the Brothers should stand forming a Hollow Square, without arms crossed (refer to Page 60 of the Private Ritual). If non-members are present, they may remain seated in an appropriate location for the Ceremony. The Big Brother Candidates, when called, should come from the Hollow Square to stand at their designated place.

## B. Script for the Big Brother Ceremony

*An asterisk \* denotes one rap of the gavel.*

PRESIDENT-- \* Our Purpose in this assembly is to establish a formal relationship between each New Member of the Fraternity and one initiated member of the Chapter who will serve in the special role as his Big Brother.

*If this Ceremony is not being conducted immediately after the New Member Ceremony, the New Members are now conducted by the Marshal to the front of the room in a single line facing the Altar. The Marshal then addresses them as a group.*

MARSHAL—New Members of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, as a part of the process by which you journey toward membership in Theta Chi Fraternity, it is proper for one of our initiated Brothers to serve each of you as your individual guide, mentor, and role model. This is a responsibility accepted willingly and openly by each Big Brother.

Big Brother Candidates, please come forward and stand behind you Little Brother.

*Big Brother Candidates come forward. Each stands immediately behind his Little Brother, facing the Altar. New Members continue to face the Altar.*

MARSHAL—Big Brother Candidates, as has been our tradition, the responsibilities of a Big Brother are to serve as an individual guide, mentor, and role model to a Little Brother. Is this an obligation you accept freely and willingly, recognizing that your influence will affect not only your Little Brother, but the future of our Chapter and Theta Chi Fraternity? If so, answer, "I accept."

BIG BROTHER CANDIDATES—I accept.

MARSHAL—New Members, turn and face your Big Brother Candidate.

*Pause until each New Member has turned.*

MARSHAL—Big Brother Candidates, the time has come to formalize your commitment to your Little Brother. This is done through a Statement of Obligation, spoken directly to your Little Brother and witnessed by this assembly. The Chaplain will administer the Obligation.

CHAPLAIN—For your understanding, I will first recite the Statement of Obligation in full.

"I, state your name in full, do solemnly accept the honor and responsibility of becoming Big Brother to state the name of your Little Brother. It will be my duty to teach my Little Brother the meaning of Theta Chi Fraternity through my personal actions and guidance. I will also assist my Little Brother in fulfilling his academic and Fraternity responsibilities. I will allow no harm, mental or physical, to be inflicted upon my Little Brother by anyone, including a member of this Fraternity. I shall be a positive role model, and by example, show him the path to Brotherhood in Theta Chi Fraternity."

Big Brother Candidates, please repeat after me:

"I, (*your name in full*), I do solemnly accept / the honor and responsibility / of becoming Big Brother to (*name of your Little Brother*). / It will be my duty to teach my Little Brother / the meaning of Theta Chi Fraternity / through my personal actions and guidance. / I will also assist my Little Brother / in fulfilling his academic and Fraternity responsibilities. / I will allow no harm, / mental or physical, / to be inflicted upon my Little Brother / by anyone, including a member of this Fraternity. / I shall be a positive role model, / and by example, / show him the path to Brotherhood in Theta Chi Fraternity."

ALL OTHER BROTHERS—We are witnesses to this your Statement of Obligation.

MARSHAL—The bonds between Big Brothers often continue long beyond the period of pledgship. The bond that links a true family is not one of blood, but one of honor, commitment, joy, and respect in each other's lives. This, too, is emblematic of our life long Brotherhood.

PRESIDENT—Brothers, this Ceremony has celebrated our past while embracing the Fraternity's customs, rituals, and beliefs. We have previously obligated ourselves to treat these New Members with dignity and respect, and to provide an opportunity for trusting relationships to develop. We expect initiated members to take responsibility for any behavior that affects these individuals. We further commit our selves to the success of these New Members, to promote community involvement and to encourage academic excellence. My Brother, of you accept this call to commitment to these New members, say "I do."

ALL BROTHERS—I do.

PRESIDENT—Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN—Almighty God, bless the newly created bonds between our Little and Big Brothers. Grant to our Big Brothers good judgement, to guide our Little Brothers on the first stage of their journey to the Brotherhood of Theta Chi. Grant to our Little Brothers receptive minds and hearts, so that they may learn the precepts and traditions of our Fraternity. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

PRESIDENT—This concludes the work of the Big Brother Ceremony. Love and respect all of your Brothers. \*

*At this point a suitable opportunity presents itself for Big and Little Brothers to discuss mutual expectations. Announcements may be made regarding upcoming Big and Little Brother activities.*

*Finis, Big Brother Ceremony*

# ALUMNI CEREMONY

## A. Preparation.

The Alumni Ceremony is used to establish a bridge from undergraduate membership to alumnus status. The Ceremony should take place close to the time of graduation. It is appropriate to hold the Ceremony following a dinner in celebration of graduation. It may be held in the Chapter House, a private room in a restaurant, or a private residence. Appropriate non-member guests may attend. Alumni Brothers must play a major role in this activity. Although this is a serious ceremony, it is not a somber one. It is, in fact, a celebration of a rite of passage.

1. *Personnel required:*
  - a. Four alumni with designated speaking parts.
  - b. Chaplain. May be substituted by an alumnus.
  - c. Undergraduate Alumni Programs Chair.
  - d. Three undergraduates to serve as voices.
  
2. *Properties required:*
  - ❑ Theta Chi Fraternity Flag
  - ❑ Altar of Theta Chi (See Page 9, Private Ritual)
  - ❑ United States Flag
  - ❑ White Altar Cloth
  - ❑ Canadian Flag
  - ❑ Bible, opened to Genesis 1:2
  - ❑ Three tall red tapered candles in clear or white glass individual holders
  - ❑ One large red candle, at least three inches in diameter, lighted
  - ❑ White candles, with wax catchers, one for each graduating Brother to hold
  - ❑ Listing of the following:
    - ❑ Alumni Corporation officer addresses
    - ❑ Dates, times and places of upcoming alumni events
  
3. At the opening of the Ceremony, all undergraduate members, including the graduating seniors, should form a hollow square. The four alumni with roles in the Ceremony should be seated behind the altar. Other alumni present may be seated inside the hollow square, leaving room in front for the graduating seniors to assemble when called. Advisor should conduct the Ceremony with the assistance of the necessary number of undergraduate Brothers. Proper attire is normally coat and tie.
  
4. The Undergraduate Alumni Coordinator should have an alphabetical list of all graduating seniors present for the Ceremony.

## B. Script for the Alumni Ceremony

FIRST ALUMNUS – We are here today to celebrate the works of our graduating seniors. Their record of caring will always be ingrained in the hearts of Theta Chi Brothers who have known them, or who will in the future know them. Please give your attention to the Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN – The Lord said to Abraham, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.” Please bow your heads.

In all of history, O God, You have called each of us from the security of our family to go forth to the fullness of our own lives. We ask Your blessing now on these members of our Fraternity family. They go forth from undergraduates to graduates, from a community of living close together to walking different paths. Keep us always close to one another in our hearts, and help us always to offer the Helping Hand to each other. Let each be a blessing to one another and to Theta Chi Fraternity, forever and ever. Amen.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI COORDINATOR OR ALUMNUS BROTHER – Brother (Name of FIRST ALUMNUS), I bring you \_\_\_\_\_ seniors, ready to continue their journey in Theta Chi Fraternity. They are: *(Reads alphabetical list of names of all graduating seniors present)*

FIRST ALUMNUS – *(Addressing the seniors)* We welcome you to this moment in the history of Theta Chi Fraternity and express our happiness that on this day, you begin the next stage of your journey in our Fraternity. The only difference between alumni and yourselves is that we have graduated. In the eyes of Theta Chi Fraternity, we are the same.

SECOND ALUMNUS – All living things must draw nourishment and strength from their present environment and transform this energy into life. So it is with Theta Chi Fraternity. So it must be for each of us.

Brothers, you have known the beauty, the strength and the power of our Brotherhood. This gift has been handed on from Brother to Brother through the years. It is, however, a fragile gift, like life itself. It must be cared for, defended, enriched and cherished.

It is for this purpose that we meet today to welcome you to the alumni ranks of Theta Chi Fraternity. We also ask you to renew your intention to live our Brotherhood as alumni members. We ask you to not only strive for your own integrity, but to work hard for the growth and development of the whole Fraternity. We ask you to make “Theta Chi for Life” not a slogan, but truly a way of life.

THIRD ALUMNUS – There are needs within Theta Chi Fraternity that only its alumni can meet. We can only meet them if you remain an active part of our Fraternity. We need alumni Brothers to extend the Helping Hand at the international, regional, and local levels. The quality and vision of leadership is in direct proportion to the volunteers from the ranks of the alumni. We all have responsibility for the quality of life in each chapter. Each chapter needs the time and resources of its alumni. This Fraternity needs guidance that does not control, but enables, enhances, and promotes further maturity. Each chapter needs the support of alumnus Brothers at Homecoming, on Founder’s Day, reunions, anniversaries, and other social occasions. These are the elements of our environment from which we draw strength in life and consolation in death. This is why Theta Chi is for Life.

FIRST ALUMNUS – Brothers, we have often recited our Creed, but let us recite it now as an affirmation of our ideals, and a pledge of loyalty to the perpetuation of these ideals. All Brothers, please stand. *(Pause)* Together, slowly and thoughtfully, let us recite The Creed of Theta Chi.

ALL BROTHERS – I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose. It has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advance of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance, and Tolerance, extols virtue exacts harmony and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow man.

FOURTH ALUMNUS – Alumni Brothers may be seated. *(Pause)* Brothers, we see before us a flame that symbolizes the way of life we profess. Each of us, like the flame, needs care and tending. There is a frailty about all life, but there is also a power, a promise and a destiny. Our bonds of Brotherhood are strength for each other in any circumstance. Do not allow time and distance to separate you from something you truly care about.

*Alumni now pass unlit white candles to each senior.*

FIRST ALUMNUS – The red candle symbolized the burning light of Brotherhood from which we each draw strength. Brothers, light your white alumnus candle from the flame.

*Wait until each senior lights his candle. Pause further, in silence, before proceeding.*

FIRST ALUMNUS – Though miles and years may from this time and place separate us, the lighting of these candles signifies our commitment to keep the ties and light of Brotherhood and Fraternity connected.

SECOND ALUMNUS – The light of our red Brotherhood candle is magnified by the white candles we hold. Brotherhood shines brighter when those who have gone before us return to our halls. It is brighter because we have left a part of ourselves behind in this Chapter; brighter because our ideals are now shared with the larger Brotherhood of Theta Chi alumni members in many cities and countries; brighter because new witnesses and examples are now present who demonstrate the commitment of "Theta Chi for Life." We now have a new role in Theta Chi Fraternity, yet still retain our ties to \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter.

*The following four undergraduate voices should come from various points around the Hollow Square, behind the graduates. The tone of the voices should be concerns, not sarcastic.*

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI COORDINATOR – At times we, the undergraduate Brotherhood, question one another.

*Pause.*

FIRST UNDERGRADUATE VOICE – Where are our alumni?

*Pause.*

SECOND UNDERGRADUATE VOICE – Why don't they visit?

*Pause.*

THIRD UNDERGRADUATE VOICE – Why don't they take an interest in us?

*Pause.*

FIRST ALUMNUS – Remember when you asked those same questions? You are now alumni of Theta Chi Fraternity. From now on, you must share in the responsibility for the answers. Your participation as an alumnus will answer these questions with an affirmation that Theta Chi is for Life. Actively seek to assist our Fraternity, no matter where you reside. When called upon to serve our Fraternity, accept that call to the best of your ability.

FOURTH ALUMNUS – Graduation is both exciting and somber. It is difficult to say good-bye to friends and Brothers you love and respect. As you continue your journey, seek fulfillment in your life. You will not be alone.

THIRD ALUMNUS – Let us sing our Fraternity Anthem.

*In some chapters it is customary for a token or gift to be presented to each graduating senior. This would be an appropriate time for the presentation.*

FIRST ALUMNUS – This concludes the work of the Alumni Ceremony. Brothers, you may extinguish your candles. Safe journeys to you all. I now declare this gathering informal for the purpose of congratulating our new alumni of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. Love and respect all of your Brothers.

*Printed information regarding officers of the Corporation Board, Alumni Association, and upcoming alumni events may be provided to each alumnus present at this time, if not done earlier at some informal stage of the gathering.*

*Finis, Alumni Ceremony*

# CEREMONY FOR A DECEASED BROTHER

## A. Preparation

When a Brother has passed on, this Ceremony is designed to be used in a number of different settings, including but not limited to a funeral home, gravesite, home of the deceased, church, or Chapter site. In all cases the wishes of the family and any special circumstances **must** be taken into consideration. For these reasons, portions of the Ceremony may be used or omitted as best will suit the situation. Alternative readings are provided, and others may also be substituted. Although the entire Ceremony can be conducted by one Presiding Brother, the various parts may be divided among several of those Brothers present. A eulogy may also be added to the Ceremony, as well as musical selections among the readings, or personal reflections by those present.

### 1. *Personnel required:*

- a. Presiding Brother—This may be the Chapter President or any other appropriate Brother.
- b. Three Brothers, if available, to read specified parts.

### 2. *Properties required*

- Carnations, one for each Brother present
- Three tall red tapered candles

## B. Script for the Ceremony for a Deceased Brother

PRESIDING BROTHER—Members of Brother \_\_\_\_\_'s family, friends, and Brothers in Theta Chi Fraternity, on behalf of the International Fraternity and all its members, I extend to you our prayers and love on this occasion. Our Theta Chi Family is composed of a variety of backgrounds, customs, and beliefs, yet we share a unity in life and in Brotherhood. We gather in love to commemorate and to honor our Brother \_\_\_\_\_ who has gone to the Chapter Eternal. It is our solemn belief that the God of all people welcomes us to a new and eternal life when life on earth is over. We also believe that the Brotherhood and the family established here on earth will endure and be present in the next life. With that in mind we ask you all to join in prayer.

Good and loving God, we commend to your care and compassion our Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who in this life walked in the Brotherhood of Theta Chi. We felt his presence in our lives and in our Fraternity. We will miss his presence in our gatherings. We ask you to accept him in the spirit of the Helping Hand, which he extended to us and through which we pay our final respects. Accept him and our prayers. We ask your kindness and love for our Brother's family, his friends, and our Brotherhood. May Your peace be in our hearts now and forever. Amen.

PRESIDING BROTHER—Will all Brothers in Theta Chi Fraternity now rise and sing “Held Fast in Friendship’s Bond.” *Sung to the tune of “Nearer My God to Thee.”*

“Held fast in friendship’s bond, Brothers we stand  
of one Fraternity: our Helping Hand.  
Strong is the tender tie wrought by our Theta Chi.  
True earnest, faithful band, our Helping Hand.”

FIRST BROTHER—Thank you, Brothers. You may be seated. *(Pause)* The first reading is taken from the Christian Scriptures. These are some thoughts from John’s Gospel:

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father’s house there are many places to live in; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to myself, so that where I am you might be also.

“I will pray to the Father and He will give you another Comforter to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world can never accept since it neither sees nor knows him, but you know him because He is with you, He is in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see that I live and you also will live.

“I have said these things while still with you, but the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I leave you; my peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”

SECOND BROTHER—The second reading is from the writings of Paul Irion.

“Yesterday, today, tomorrow: how quickly they blend into one another. The memories of yesterday and the promises of tomorrow meet in the living of today. For this reason, today is a mixture of gratitude and challenge.

“As we think of the past and the life that has ended, we are grateful for the benefits we have received from it. As we think of the inscrutable future we feel the challenge of our possibilities, that life tomorrow might be filled with greater worth and meaning. And today, in the midst of sadness and loss, we resolve to pick up the unfinished tasks laid down by those who have lived, to dream anew their unfilled dreams, and to give ourselves to sharing the enduring qualities of beauty, joy, and love, which they have shared with us.”

THIRD BROTHER—The third reading is from the Jewish Reform liturgy.

“We are assembled with our friends in the shadow that has fallen on their home. We raise our voices together in prayer to the Source of life, asking for comfort and strength.

“We need light when gloom darkens our home; to whom shall we look, but to the Creator of Light? We need fortitude and courage when pain and loss assail us; where shall we find them, if not in the thought of Him who preserves all that is good from destruction?”

"Who among us has not passed through trials and bereavements? Some bear fresh wounds in their hearts, and therefore feel more keenly the kinship of sorrow. Others, whose days of mourning are more remote, still recall the comfort that sympathy brought to their sorrowing hearts.

"All things pass; all that lives must die. All that we prize is but lent to us; and the time comes when we must surrender it. We are travelers on the same road that leads to the same end."

PRESIDING BROTHER—The Creed of Theta Chi bound us to Brother \_\_\_\_\_ and binds us to one another. Brothers, rise and join me now in reciting The Creed.

ALL BROTHERS—I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, Nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance and Tolerance, extols virtue, exacts Harmony and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow man.

*Suggested place for eulogy and/or personal reflections, if any are to be included.*

PRESIDING BROTHER—Brothers, you may now each pass to your final respects, and then return to your seats.

*Appropriate music may be played as each Brother present passes by the casket, urn, grave, or altar, placing a red carnation at the foot of the casket, urn, into the grave, or on the altar. Brothers should then return to their seats.*

PRESIDING BROTHER—An old man going a lone highway  
came at the evening, cold and gray,  
to a chasm vast and deep and wide  
through which was flowing a sullen tide;  
the old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
the sullen stream had no fear for him.  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
and built a bridge to span the tide.  
"Old man" said a fellow pilgrim near,  
"you are wasting your time in building here;  
your journey will end with the ending day.  
You never again will pass this way.  
You've crossed the chasm deep and wide;  
why build you this bridge at the evening tide?"  
The builder lifted his old gray head—

"Good friend, in the path that I have come," he said,  
"there followeth after me today,  
a youth whose feet must pass this way;  
this chasm that has been naught to me  
to that fair haired youth may be a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim—  
good friend, I am building this bridge for him."

Brother \_\_\_\_\_ was a bridge builder for us. Let us now go forth continuing to build bridges for those who will follow after us.

Please join me in singing our Fraternity Anthem.

*This is done.*

PRESIDING BROTHER—As in the world around us, so too in human life, darkness is followed by light and sorrow by comfort. Life and death are twins; grief and hope walk hand in hand. Let us put our trust in the undying spirit who calls us into life and who abides to all eternity.

This concludes the work of this Theta Chi Fraternity Ceremony. Let us go fourth and celebrate the spirit of life of Brother \_\_\_\_\_. Love and respect all of you Brothers.

*Finis, Ceremony for a Deceased Brother*

## ALTERNATIVE READINGS

Death, strangely, can teach us to celebrate life. We have known those who, suffering and weakened, bestow a rich legacy of courage and enduring for living. We have witnessed those who, overflowing with the love of life, did not count the cost of walking without hesitancy into the future.

These set us free to walk undaunted, to live as freely as we can, to invest ourselves in sharing. These cause us to see the value of today and the promise of tomorrow.

In celebrating the life he has lived, we celebrate the possibilities of our own living.

--*Paul Irion*

The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for the sake of His name. Even when I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for You are with me. With rod and staff You comfort me. You have set a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever.

--*Psalm 23*

I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from whence shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved, He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; He is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore.

--*Psalm 121*

When Cherished ties are broken, and the chain of love is shattered, only trust and the strength of faith can lighten the heaviness of the heart. At times, the pain of separation seems more than we can bear, but if we dwell too long on our loss we embitter our hearts and harm ourselves and those about us.

The Psalmist said that in his affliction he learned the law of God. And in truth, grief is a greater teacher, when it sends us back to serve and bless the living. We learn how to counsel and comfort those who, like ourselves, are bowed with sorrow. We learn when to keep silence in their presence, and when a word will assure them of our love and concern.

Thus, even when they are gone, the departed are with us, moving us to live as, in their higher moments, they themselves wished to live. We remember them now; they live in our hearts; they are an abiding blessing.

--*Jewish Reform liturgy*

Lord of spirit, we have turned to You to comfort in these days of grief. When the cup of sorrow passed into our hands, Your presence consoled us. Now we rise up to face the tasks of life once more. There will be moments of woe and hours of loneliness, for a loved one has passed from our sight. In our times of weakness may his memory strengthen our spirit. Teach us, O God, to give thanks for all that was deathless in the life of our dear companion and friend, and which now is revealed to us in all its beauty. Be our support when our own strength fails us.

For the love that death cannot sever; for the friendship we shared along life's path; for those gifts of heart and mind which have now become a precious heritage; for these and more, we are grateful. Now help us, Lord, not to dwell on sorrow and pain, but to honor our beloved by the quality of our lives. Amen.

*--Jewish Reform liturgy*

The light of life is a finite flame. Like the Sabbath candles, life is kindled, it burns, it glows, it is radiant with warmth and beauty. But soon it fades, its substance is consumed, and is no more.

In the light we see; in the light we are seen. The flames dance and our lives are full. But as night follows day, the candle of our life burns down and gutters. There us an end to the flames. We weep no more and are no more seen. Yet we do not despair, for we are more than a memory slowly fading into the darkness. With our lives we give life. Something of us can never die: we move in the eternal cycle of darkness and death, of light and life.

*--Jewish Reform liturgy*

## MEMORIAL CEREMONY

*The Memorial Ceremony should be conducted annually, commemorating the passing of any Brothers of the Chapter. This is a serious Ceremony. Appropriate attire is coat and tie.*

### A. Preparation

1. *Personnel required:*

- a. President
- b. Vice President
- c. Secretary
- d. Chaplain

2. *Properties required:*

- Gavel
- 3 tall red tapered candles, lighted
- White Altar cloth
- One large red candle, at least three inches in diameter, lighted
- Altar of Theta Chi (See Page 9, Private Ritual)
- Red Carnations, one for each deceased Brother
- Bible

### B. Script for the Memorial Ceremony

*Throughout the entirety of this Ceremony, the asterisk, \* signifies one rap of the gavel. Three raps of the gavel, \*\*\* means the Brothers should stand. One rap \* means be seated and/or to come to attention.*

PRESIDENT-- \* The meeting will come to order. *(Pause)* Brother Vice President, how many Brothers constitute a quorum in a Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity?

VICE PRESIDENT—One less than a majority of the active members.

PRESIDENT—Brother Vice President, is not a quorum, as a matter of custom, a full majority of the active members of a Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity?

VICE PRESIDENT—That is true, Brother President, but in the course of human events the membership of our Fraternity is a constantly changing group. New men cast their lots with ours, and, as the years roll on, our Brothers are taken from us by the intervention of the Almighty. Today we meet to celebrate the lives and to memorialize the passing of each Brother whose journey in Theta Chi Fraternity has ended and who has entered the Chapter Eternal. It is therefore fitting that the memory as a symbol that the light of their presence will always shine in the hearts of their Brothers.

PRESIDENT—It is so ordered, Brother Vice President. *(Pause)* \*\*\* *(Pause)* Brother Chaplain, read the opening prayer.

CHAPLAIN—Almighty God, our divine Father, though with bolts and bars and secret signals we may seclude ourselves from others, we would not think with such inventions to seclude ourselves from You. Recognizing the greatness of Your works we bid You welcome, and with hearts overflowing with gratitude for the richness of life we bow again in humility to ask Your continued blessing. Erring, we seek Your guidance. Weak, we come to You for strength. Ignorant, we would yet attain wisdom. Inspire our thoughts, govern our actions, and direct our deliberations, to the end that together we may walk in the footsteps of our Great Example until, guided by the light of Truth, we come into the fullness of a united Brotherhood, where deceit withers before it is spoken, where the Helping Hand is extended before the needy shall suffer, and where a perfect love casts out fear. Amen.

PRESIDENT—In the name of the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity and by the authority on me conferred, I declare this memorial meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter opened. \*

The memorial bells of Theta Chi Fraternity toll again. We remember those who but yesterday walked among us and carried some matchless inspiration of their own. Together, they and we, have known the dawn. Together, they and we, have known the glory of the strength of the noonday sun. Together, they and we, have rested in the evening and toiled into the night in search of truth.

Now, for them has come the summons to the Chapter Eternal, which is final Chapter for us all. There it is that dawn, noon and night are their fullest state. There it is that man's harvest is complete. It is written that "Man that is born of woman of a few days and full of trouble. He comes forth as a flower and is cut down. He flees a shadow." *(Brief pause)* Is life therefore in vain, we ask? Not in the teachings of our Fraternity nor in the lives of our honored Brothers. We pause to voice the esteem in which we held our new departed Brothers. Their labors that the living chapter earned for them their place in the Chapter Eternal. Peace be with them. They are an inspiration to those of us who yet remain. God grant, with integrity and honor, that we continue in service to our Fraternity, to one another, and life's journey.

\*\*\* *(Pause)*

Brother Chaplain, you will place at the foot of the Altar of Theta Chi Fraternity our tokens of remembrance of those who have departed since our last service. Brother Secretary, call the role of our departed Brothers.

SECRETARY—*(The Secretary calls the roll of all Brothers of the Chapter who have died since the last Memorial Ceremony, reading the full name and class year of each).*

*As the names are read, the Chaplain places a red carnation at the foot of the Altar for each departed Brother.*

PRESIDENT—Brothers, please join in singing “Held Fast in Friendship’s Bond.”.

*All members sing.*

PRESIDENT—Brother Chaplain, lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN—God, Your mercy and compassion surpasses all understanding. Be with us, we pray, at this time. Extend a hand of comfort and protection to the families of our departed Brothers and to those who loved them dearly, for to them our words are as empty as the sigh of the wind in the forest. Inspire our hearts with wisdom from on high that we may glorify them in all ways. May we realize that Your eyes are upon us, and be so influenced by the spirit of truth and love that we may enjoy the divine blessings here on earth. When our toils on this earth are ended, may we be raised to the enjoyment of immortal life in that kingdom where faith and hope shall end, and love and joy prevail through the eternal ages. Amen.

PRESIDENT—This concludes the work of the Memorial Ceremony. Love and respect all of your Brothers.\*

*Finis, Memorial Ceremony*

## THE CREED OF THETA CHI

I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place among the educational institutes of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of culture, and a builder of character.

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I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and fellow man.

Frank H. Schrenk, Kappa '09, '12, '15  
National President, 1926-1929