



ΦΚΤ
Phi Kappa Tau

Public Ritual Handbook



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Public Rituals - The Association Ceremony

OVERVIEW

The Association Ceremony is the first experience a new member will go through and sets them on their fraternal journey. Many of the pieces of this ceremony will be reflected in their new member education. This is likely the first time the member will take an oath, so it is important for the current members to prepare the new member and ensure they have a thorough understanding of what is expected of them.

This event is best done publicly and outside if possible at a location of significance to the chapter or campus. As a public ritual this is an excellent opportunity to invite family members, university faculty/staff, and outside members of the greek community to witness the new members taking their first step. When done right this ceremony provides a great deal of transparency to Phi Kappa Tau that private ceremonies do not permit.

CEREMONY PREPARATION

This ceremony shall take place no more than one week after the associate member has accepted his invitation to associate membership. All members of the chapter should be present. When the date for the Association Ceremony has been determined the Membership Orientation Officer ascertains that each associate member is placed under the responsibility of some one member of the chapter. It is the duty of the member to make a definite engagement with his associate member and to have him at the chapter house or specified location on campus at the appointed time.

The room is prepared for the ceremony in this manner: At one end of the room a chair and table are placed for the station of the President and Membership Orientation Officer of the chapter. The gavel and other insignia of office are on the table. Before the table and forming a circle with it are placed chairs for the members of the chapter. In the back of the room and OUTSIDE the circle are placed in straight lines the chairs for the associate members.

When the hour for the meeting arrives the brothers, except the President, enter the chapter room with the associate members. The brothers take their places in the circle after seating the associate members in the appointed chairs. When all are present the Membership Orientation Officer addresses the assembled associate members.

Public Rituals - The Association Ceremony

SCRIPTING

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION OFFICER: Men of (College or University) you are facing a critical period in your life, and the step which you are about to take will always represent a milestone. While you have already expressed a willingness to affiliate with our Fraternity, this ceremony will give you an opportunity to enter formally into that course of activity which leads to full fraternal life. We welcome you at this meeting. Your presence here as our leader calls this meeting to order will indicate to him and to us your desire to participate in the ceremony over which he will preside.

The Membership Orientation Officer is reseated and this is the signal for the President to enter and take his station where he immediately calls the meeting to order. He addresses the brothers.

PRESIDENT: Brothers of Phi Kappa Tau, this meeting has been called at the request of a number of members for the purpose of transacting certain business pertinent to the progress of the chapter. The chair now awaits your pleasure.

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION OFFICER: Brother President, as we followed the course of fraternity and college activities on the campus and in the halls of (College or University) we have come to know a group of men who have expressed a desire to seek the bond of brotherhood as exemplified in the Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. We have invited these men here tonight to receive further information and advice to guide them in their search.

PRESIDENT: Brother Membership Orientation Officer, your action was correct and quite in keeping with the spirit of true brotherhood and mutual helpfulness. But before we can impart this information we must first be certain that these men are worthy to receive it. Such truths are only for those who are willing to live them as well as to know them.

MEMBERSHIP ORIENTATION OFFICER: Brother President, these men, all students in good standing at (College or University) have expressed a desire to enter into associate membership in Phi Kappa Tau. It is our desire to have them so received.

PRESIDENT: Brothers of _____ chapter you have asked that certain men be accepted in to formal associate membership in Phi Kappa Tau. You will remember that the qualities required for associate membership are:

1. Conduct becoming of a responsible citizen and gentleman
2. Maintenance of a high standard of scholarship
3. A spirit of sincerity and respect towards the Fraternity and its members
4. Support of the interests of the brotherhood
5. The reception of every member of this Fraternity as a brother without evasion or reservation.

These things are basic to the spirit of fraternal existence and are necessary for the continued progress of our chapter as an important unit in life on this campus. Consider them well.

Public Rituals - The Association Ceremony

He pauses

PRESIDENT: If, in the opinion of any one of you, there is present any man of (College or University) possessing the necessary qualities, you may now present that man to our circle to receive further instruction and the Oath of Associate Membership.

At this point one of the brothers bring forward the associate member for whom he is responsible and presents him to the President.

BROTHER: Brother President, I believe that (name of associate) possesses the required qualities and I now present him to our circle and petition that he be given the Oath of Associate Membership in Phi Kappa Tau.

PRESIDENT: (Name of associate) you have heard the request made in your favor. Is it your own desire that you be now admitted to the Oath of Associate Membership in The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity?

CANDIDATE: Answers voluntarily.

PRESIDENT: Brothers of (Chapter Name) is it your desire that (name of associate) be permitted to subscribe to the Oath of Associate Membership?

CHAPTER: (in unison) Such is our desire.

PRESIDENT: So let it be.

All the associate members are presented in the same manner each one being presented individually. When all candidates have been received, the President says:

PRESIDENT: Brother Membership Orientation Officer, instruct these candidates as to the proper posture for reception of the Oath of Associate Membership.

The Membership Orientation Officer instructs all the candidates to kneel with the left hand over the heart and the right hand uplifted. The President raps three times for the chapter to rise.

He then administers the Oath which has been broken down into smaller segments for improved recitation.

PRESIDENT: Say I, pronounce your name in full and repeat after me the following obligation:

Oath begins on next page.

Public Rituals - The Association Ceremony

PRESIDENT: Say I, pronounce your name in full and repeat after me the following obligation:

I, repeat your name,

upon my most sacred honor as a man,

do solemnly swear (or promise)

in the presence of this Fraternity,

that, during my associate membership,

I will conscientiously and willingly perform

the duties of an associate member

as directed

by the members of this Fraternity,

if such duties be consistent

with honor and reason;

that I will never complain of my duties

to any person except that person

be the proper officer in charge of my work;

that, except by mutual agreement

between myself and this Fraternity,

I will never,

under any circumstances,

relinquish my candidate badge.

So help me God.

Public Rituals - The Association Ceremony

At this point the members come forward, place candidate badges on the associate member and assist them to rise.

PRESIDENT: You have just taken the solemn Oath of Associate Membership and have been invested with the candidate badge of The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. I assure you that as an associate member nothing will be asked of you that will conflict with your religious beliefs, nor with your honor as a gentleman. The candidate badge which you now wear is a mark of distinction as a representative of this Fraternity. It is a traditional emblem that has been worn with honor and pride by many men. To us it stands as the first link in a chain of brotherhood. The act of wearing it is symbolic of your desire to dedicate yourself to those bonds of fellowship which are eternal within the Fraternity. May your enthusiasm and spirit carry you through this, your period of associate membership, to the complete brotherhood that lies beyond.

PRESIDENT: By virtue of the authority vested in me as President of _____ Chapter of The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity I now declare you officially an associate member of The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity. You will receive further instructions from the Membership Orientation Officer. This meeting is now adjourned.

The chapter now offers their congratulations to the new associate members.



Public Rituals - The Funeral Ceremony

OVERVIEW

The Funeral Ceremony is a supplemental ceremony to the memorial service for a member who has passed. It is an opportunity for Phi Kappa Tau and the brothers of the deceased member's chapter to honor their life and contributions to the fraternity.

The ceremony is also done at each National Convention, either on the convention floor or at an outside venue to honor all members who have entered "Chapter Eternal", the final resting place for brothers of Phi Kappa Tau.

CEREMONY PREPARATION

This ceremony, although always a somber occasion, can be incredibly powerful for members of the brother's family to witness and behold the strength of the brotherhood's love for their members. As the scripting will indicate on the following page it can be done at home, at church, or at the grave. Additionally it can be done outside at a place of significance, or a place that can accommodate the number of guests present.

In the event of an active undergraduate member passing this can also be an opportunity to incorporate the campus community at a candlelight vigil to allow the campus the opportunity to mourn with the brotherhood.

Ideally this ceremony is formal, however that is more conditional on the circumstances of the memorial service it is taking place at.

In advance of the funeral ceremony, have at the ready a token of greenery to place at an appropriate location in accordance with the scripting. This location can be a small table or altar. The type of greenery as described by the ritual can be a flower (red carnation), a piece of evergreen, or both. There is flexibility in this depending on what is available in the memorial's area.

SCRIPTING

This service is to be read by two brothers designated by the chapter. It may be used as part of the service at home, at the church, or at the grave.

FIRST BROTHER: We have assembled here to offer the last tribute of love and honor to our brother who has passed into the great beyond.

SECOND BROTHER: "The silver cord is loosed, the golden bowl is broken, the pitcher is broken at the fountain, the wheel is broken at the cistern, and the spirit returneth unto God who gave it."

FIRST BROTHER: We mourn the breaking of these earthly ties and this loss of companionship. Another link has been severed from the fraternal chain that binds us together.

SECOND BROTHER: "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."

FIRST BROTHER: To the sorrowing relatives and friends, we offer our deepest sympathy in this hour of bereavement and loss.

SECOND BROTHER: "The God of our Fathers whose name is from everlasting will be our God forever and ever."

FIRST BROTHER: This emblem we now place with our brother. By it we are reminded of the fragrance and charm of our brother's life. It is symbolic of our fondest hope that the flower of life shall bloom again in that Eternal Spring.

SECOND BROTHER: "I am the resurrection and the life. He that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die."

FIRST BROTHER: Amen.

SECOND BROTHER: Amen

Note: "Token" to be a flower, a piece of evergreen, or both.



Public Rituals - The Candlelight Ceremony

OVERVIEW

The Candlelight Ceremony is one of the most recent entries into the canon of Phi Kappa Tau's public ritual. The original intention of the Candlelight Ceremony was to close out the Brotherhood Banquet that historically concludes the National Convention of Phi Kappa Tau. It is now common for the Candlelight Ceremony to close out any large group gathering of Phi Kappa Tau members.

This can be at chapter anniversary celebrations, national educational programs, it has even been done virtually. Properly done it is a moving ceremony with a powerful visual. Preparation is key for a properly executed Candlelight Ceremony.

CEREMONY PREPARATION

Fittingly for the Candlelight Ceremony, you first must have candles. These are to be small handheld candles with a wax drip guard, these can be purchased at most church supply stores or online. When bought in bulk and properly stored after each use you shouldn't have to purchase these frequently but you should check several days in advance of your event that you have enough candles to accommodate your guests.

Additionally there should be four distinct candles to represent the founders as well as one larger candle to represent the eternal flame of brotherhood. These should be visible to all and placed at a distinct location, typically at a table near the master of ceremonies. In the event of your venue not permitting the use of candles electric candles may be substituted. Test each electric candle prior to distribution.

Select in advance the members who will represent the four founding fathers, there should be intentionality behind this decision and not random volunteers. If multiple generations or subgroups of brothers are present try to represent as many groups as possible with the founders. If possible, rehearse the brotherhood song in advance and have a few strong voices lead the key and tempo of the song. The music and lyrics should be made available to the brothers, a chapter set should be printed and reused each year, or you can add them to the back of a printed program depending on the type of event.

In advance of the ceremony check how dark your venue can become. Talk with the facilities staff in advance so they understand the queues needed to achieve the lights dampening. Ideally, outside of "EXIT" signs, the room is only illuminated by candles when indicated.

Public Rituals - The Candlelight Ceremony

SCRIPTING

Four candles sit unlit at an altar, in the middle of them is a large candle - the lone flickering light. Handheld candles are made readily accessible yet at present moment untouched by brothers present at the ceremony.

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: (Self script a transition into the ceremony, thank those who are there, reflect briefly on the fellowship that has been experienced. Use this to transition into the scripted part of the ceremony.)

MASTER OF CEREMONIES: It is fitting that we celebrate the birth of an experience which began more than 100 years ago on a cold, March day on the campus of Miami University with four of those esteemed brothers. On that significant and very special day, a group of courageous and determined young men—21 to be exact—gathered to share a belief in themselves, to share a vision, and to share the experience of true fraternity.

I can almost hear those men saying ...

“I shall try always to discharge the obligation to others which arises from the fact that I am a fraternity man.” Although it would be nearly 44 years later before those exact words were penned by brother Roland Maxwell, Pi chapter, Southern California.

Those 21 men had absolutely no thought that we —on this night, on this occasion—would be honoring the decisions they made in Miami’s Old Main building that special day over 115 years ago.

Time passes. Over the years, many of us have come to realize that, very often, where no tree exists, we must be willing to plant one so that others may enjoy its fruit and shade.

You each are here this evening because you are helping plant trees; your continuing belief in the experience of the Fraternity will keep those trees healthy for generations to come.

Thank you. Thank you for your willingness to give Phi Kappa Tau fruit, shade, and strength.

I am genuinely confident those early pioneers of our Fraternity would each be enthusiastic about your presence here tonight.

The fact is, those men who gathered on the Miami campus were not myths. Indeed, they were flesh and blood. In those early minutes and hours of the birth of the Non-Fraternity Association, our founding brothers were also students, just like most of you who are here this night.

There happens to be an old Welsh proverb which says: He that would be a leader must first be a bridge.

He that would be a leader must first be a bridge.

Public Rituals - The Candlelight Ceremony

Those 21 men—and the four who were ultimately chosen to be recognized as founders—had precious little way to know that they were bridge builders.

In fact, virtually to the man, they had absolutely no vision that their great bond would last beyond their college years.

Many of the alumni members of this Fraternity who are with us this evening have—themselves—been bridge builders though probably not realizing it.

Now it is up to our undergraduate brothers to carry on the tradition. Tomorrow is too soon upon us.

So, it seems it is our job—yours and mine—student members and alumni alike—to make certain that the bridges we each build are sturdy, sound, and able to withstand the test of time.

Meeting the test of time has always been a strength of this Fraternity.

I'm pleased to escort you through a tradition in our Fraternity, the Phi Kappa Tau Candlelight Ceremony. The Candlelight Ceremony has been a part of the Fraternity's history since it first began in 1975 at our National Convention in Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri.

Tonight, it is my pleasure to invite four undergraduate brothers to represent our four honored founders. (Insert names here, All in the following format: Full Name/Chapter/School)

The North American college fraternity is now over 240 years old. But it is not a fragile heirloom to be housed in a museum. And it most certainly is not a relic of days gone by.

Rather, the North American college fraternity is warranted to be of great value, and the warranty is good only for the intended purpose. That purpose is to build better citizens. That purpose is to build better men. These four men here assembled are living, breathing reflections of our purpose—building better citizens, building better men.

Brothers, yours is an important responsibility this night. Upon you rests the task of carrying forward the founders' original spark of brotherhood to your brothers here assembled.

[pause]

Founder Dwight Douglass, class of 1906; William Shideler, class of 1907; Clinton Boyd, class of 1908; and Taylor Borradaile, class of 1908 would each be proud to be with us this evening. Somehow, I believe they are with us. Phi Kappa Tau is committed to developing values, character, and good citizens. Those four men, together with their associates, made a similar commitment to those same virtues.

Public Rituals - The Candlelight Ceremony

Now, I invite brother (insert name, chapter, university) representing Founder Douglass, to take a spark from our symbolic Founders Candle.

[pause, the brother lights their candle]

Founder Douglass was the oldest of our founders. He presided over the first meeting on March 17, 1906, just as he was completing his final year at Miami. He played football. Physically, he was probably the biggest male student on campus. Douglass served in the Army in France in World War I and was exposed to lethal nerve gas during combat, a condition that was to impair his health the remainder of his life. In his later years, he was a short-story writer, using a pen name he never revealed to his family. To this day, we have no knowledge of his writings.

He died in 1940 and is buried in Hammond, Louisiana. His death took from us the first of our founders. Now I invite brother (insert name, chapter, university) representing Founder Shideler, to take a symbolic spark from the Founders Candle.

[pause, the brother lights their candle]

Founder Shideler was the intellectual of the founding group, having the nickname “Doc” even as a student. He entered Miami in 1904 and graduated in three years. He returned to Miami with a Ph.D. in geology from Cornell University in 1910, subsequently teaching geology at Miami for 47 years, a record still standing. He attended his last Convention in Pasadena, California, in 1958 and for the final time personally presented the Shideler Award.

Shideler died the following December and is the only founder to be buried in Oxford, Ohio. Now I invite brother insert (name, chapter, university) representing Founder Boyd to take a spark from the Founders Candle.

[pause, the brother lights their candle]

Clinton Boyd came to Miami in 1904. Together with Shideler, he helped organize the unaffiliated men of the student body. He ran track and was an outstanding orator. Following receipt of his law degree from Michigan, he practiced law in Middletown, Ohio, for the remainder of his life. He helped initiate his son, Clinton, Jr. in 1948 at Alpha chapter.

Founder Boyd was killed tragically in an automobile accident in 1950. His grandson Mark, whom he never met, would be initiated into an Alpha chapter in 1971.

Now I invite brother (insert name, chapter, university) representing Founder Borradaile, to take a spark from the Founders Candle.

[pause, the brother lights their candle]

Public Rituals - The Candlelight Ceremony

Founder Borradaile came to Miami in the fall of 1904 to study science. Raised in a Quaker family, his parents wanted him to attend Earlham College in Richmond, Indiana, a noted Quaker school. But science was his first love, and he chose Miami. As a student, he possessed remarkable organizational and political abilities, earning him the nickname “Boss.”

At his death in 1977 at age 92, Brother Borradaile had lived almost 20 years longer than any other founder, and at that time was truly the only link to the founders that many younger members had. He thus became the fourth and last founder to live on only in our memories.

[pause]

I now ask that the four brothers take positions at the four corners of our space, and that all brothers present rise and join in a circle with their candles, taking a spark of brotherhood as you do.

[pause]

I offer each of you this timely prose, penned not by a member of this Fraternity, but created by someone who truly understood the experience of true brotherhood.

An old man, going a lone highway, came at the evening, cold and gray, to a chasm vast, and deep, and wide. The old man crossed in the twilight dim; the sullen stream had no fear for him.

But he turned, when safely on the other side, and built a bridge, to span the tide.

“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim near, “You are wasting your strength with building here, your journey soon will end with the close of day. You never again will pass this way. You’ve crossed the chasm deep and wide. Why build you a bridge at evening tide?”

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

“I am building this bridge for him.”

Now we give pause to just what we are about.

Tonight, we each are charged with the task of making certain that—individually and collectively—we continue to build bridges. Indeed, to plant trees for those yet to come. For those whom we may never meet. But all the while knowing they will be better for our having been here today.

And so, we grow, generation by generation.

Public Rituals - The Candlelight Ceremony

Now it is fitting that, as brothers, we sing our Brotherhood Song.

[Brotherhood Song is sung]

We've just sung our traditional Brotherhood Song, closing ceremonies, Conventions, chapter meetings; wherever brothers have gathered, demonstrating for all to hear the depth of our bond. We are brothers now and ever. Today, tomorrow, next month. Next year. Now and ever.

This concludes the program



Public Rituals - Meeting Ceremonies

OVERVIEW

Ritual is not only found at major events or celebrations, but also in the weekly activities of your chapter. How we open and close our meetings as well as the business conducted inside should be consistent so that future generations of Phi Kappa Tau brothers will have structure.

While not always the case, how well run a chapter meeting is can be a major indicator of the health of the organization. If a chapter fails to meet successfully one week, the effects can ripple into the remainder of the semester. Chapter meetings use the following format to stay productive and engaging for members.

Note: This particular outline is intended for Associate Chapters who have not gone through initiation and omits pieces of the private ritual.

CEREMONY PREPARATION

The chapter meeting should be done in a space sizable enough to accommodate the entire brotherhood. This can be the chapter room for housed chapters, or somewhere on campus like an auditorium or large classroom for chapter's without access to a common space. Audio visual components should be easily accessible as well for slideshows and special presentations.

Ideally the chapter meeting is formal, coat and tie, however this is variable based on the chapter. It is wise to declare a minimum of one chapter meeting per month to be formal, and certainly whenever a guest is invited to come speak to the chapter.

Officers who are to give a report should have a clear idea of what they intend to report out to the chapter prior to the chapter meeting. A Sergeant at Arms should be appointed to admit people in and out of the room to avoid distractions as the meeting proceeds.

The President will need access to a gavel, and if not memorized, have a cheat sheet of the scripted outline for the meeting.

Have a process for where the meeting minutes are recorded and made accessible to the chapter, this can be a shared drive or emailed promptly to the brotherhood at the close of the meeting.

SCRIPTING

When the Appointed hour for the meeting arrives the Sergeant-at-Arms takes his station at the door of the chapter room. The President enters last takes the chair and raps three times for the chapter to rise.

After the President enters the Sergeant-at-Arms closes the door and stands guard on the inside. No one is admitted until the business meeting has been declared open. Thereafter, latecomers may obtain admission by signaling with three distinct raps. As soon as the business hand permits, the President gives permission, the door is opened to those seeking admission.

PRESIDENT: Brothers, is it your desire that we proceed with the formal opening of our fraternal meeting?

CHAPTER [in unison]: Such is our desire.

The Creed of Phi Kappa Tau

Phi Kappa Tau, by admitting me to membership, has conferred upon me a mark of distinction in which I take just pride. I believe in the spirit of brotherhood for which it stands. I shall strive to attain its ideals, and by so doing to bring to it honor and credit. I shall be loyal to my college and my chapter and shall keep strong my ties to them that I may ever retain the spirit of youth. I shall be a good and loyal citizen. I shall try always to discharge the obligation to others which arises from the fact that I am a fraternity man.

The president raps twice for the chapter to be seated.

PRESIDENT: I declare this meeting of the [xx] associate chapter of Phi Kappa Tau to be now open. The officers will take their appointed stations.

The Secretary; Treasurer and Chaplain take their stations and the business of the chapter proceeds as the President may indicate.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

1. Opening Ceremony
2. Invocation by Chaplain
3. Roll Call
4. Reading of the minutes
5. Reports of the officers.
6. Reports of Standing Committees
7. Reports of Special Committees
8. Unfinished Business
9. New Business
10. Communications
11. Proposals for Membership
12. Balloting on Candidates
13. Chapter Advisor's Report
14. Remarks for the good of the colony
15. Closing Ceremony

Use of the Gavel

Three raps [***] of the gavel directs member to stand; two raps [**] directs members to be seated; one rap [*] enjoins silence.

CLOSING THE MEETING

After the motion for adjournment has been passed the President raps three times for the chapter to rise.

PRESIDENT: What shall we remember as the mission of Phi Kappa Tau?

CHAPTER [in unison] Recite the Mission Statement.

THE MISSION OF PHI KAPPA TAU: The mission of Phi Kappa Tau is to champion a lifelong commitment to brotherhood, learning, ethical leadership and exemplary character.

PRESIDENT: I now declare this meeting of the [xx] associate chapter of Phi Kappa Tau adjourned.

The President raps once and the Sergeant-at-Arms opens the door of the Chapter room.



Public Rituals - Installation of Officers

OVERVIEW

Whenever we transition officers it is not just important to meet with previous officers to ensure that knowledge is being passed along, but it is also vital that the chapter goes through the proper ceremony to install and have the newly elected officers recite the pledge to service.

This pledge is not only recited by undergraduate officers but it is also used when installing new National Council members and can be used whenever a position should change within the organization.

CEREMONY PREPARATION

The ceremony should take place after your last meeting before officer transition. The officer should not have officially assumed their posts prior to the execution of this ceremony. Ideally as many of your Board of Governors members as possible are present for the ceremony so they can begin making connections with the new officers.

The ceremony should be formal, meaning coat and tie, and members should be prepped to recite the pledge much like when they are given the oath of associate membership.

After the ceremony make sure to take some pictures of the newly elected officers, this can be a great piece of content to include in your social media outlets as well as your alumni newsletters. It is important that your stakeholders know who is assuming what positions.

SCRIPTING

When the appropriate time arrives, the outgoing president rises and asks the incoming officers to stand before him.

PRESIDENT: Men of (insert college name), having united to form and organization and having elected officers it is now my duty to receive from those officers their pledge of service to this organization for the duties of the office for which they have been chosen.

Will the officers please come forward.

Upon you has been imposed a confidence which is a high honor. It is a tribute to your ability as a leader. In the coming days, you will be called on to live the fullest of your abilities to guide the progress of your organization to great achievements. In your care has been placed the future of this organization.

Guard against dissension among your members. If a member fails in his duty to himself or to this chapter, let it be your duty to restore in him the spirit of true fellowship. Be worthy of the task in which you are called by making yourself fully acquainted with all its obligations and by practicing all the duties and requirements of your office.

You will each raise your right hand, say "I", pronounce your name and repeat after me the following pledge:

"I, (say your name) do hereby promise upon my sacred honor to perform my duties as an officer of this organization to the best of my ability, without fear or prejudice, and with a strict adherence to the highest ideals of this Fraternity."

I now declare the officers officially installed.



Public Rituals - Founders Day

OVERVIEW

March 17th, 1906, is the Founders Day of Phi Kappa Tau. Founders Day is celebrated differently at each chapter, however it is always a day of celebration and pride for the organization. Many chapters will hold banquets in honor of Founders Day, and potentially tie them into their own local founding as well.

The following is less of a ceremony and instead written pieces to contemplate on Founders Day and consider including in any celebration the chapter holds, or piece of Founders Day related content that the chapter puts out.

CEREMONY PREPARATION

As stated above, the following script and poem are to be considered for use as a basis for a tribute to the Founders and can be presented as a part of a Founders Day Program.

These are best served delivered by someone in the chapter with excellent public speaking skills. In the absence of a formal celebration such as a banquet it is encouraged to read these aloud at your weekly chapter meeting in advance of Founders Day.

FOUNDERS DAY POEM

Great Architect of Heaven and Earth
to whom all beings owe their birth;
On Friendship's alter rising here,
The sacred fire we guard sincere.

'Twas reared in honor of Thy name,
By Brothers whom this day we fame
Though strong and firm our numbers now,
To those who builded first, we bow.

The sacred truths by them revealed
Shall be our cornerstone and shield;
That by and through our mystic tie,
This truth, and light, shall never die.

May Tau and Kappa, Crowned by Phi
continue as our torch on high,
To future ages give the Right;
This vision of unerring Light.

Adieu, my Brother all, adieu
Ye honored and enlightened few;
These moments may We ne'er forget,
Companions leave as we have met.

-Howard S. Stephenson, Theta '19

A TRIBUTE TO THE HONORED FOUNDERS

Brothers of Phi Kappa Tau:

The occasion which we commemorate today is the anniversary of the founding of our Fraternity, on March 17, 1906, at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio.

The existence of Phi Kappa Tau as a great Fraternity is due to the activity and thought of four men, all of whom were students at Miami University: Taylor Albert Borradaile, Clinton DeWitt Boyd, Dwight Ireneus Douglass, and William Henry Shideler. These men and those others who aided them, inspired by the ideals of brotherhood and motivated by a sincere desire for expression of these ideals, conceived and established the order which is today The Phi Kappa Tau Fraternity.

The growth of Phi Kappa Tau since its inception has been steady. Its ideals have been true and appealing. Thousands of college men have accepted its teachings in their search for true happiness. The unquenchable desire for perpetual progress, for truer manhood, and for nobler life flames high in their lives as they follow the brightening star ever toward an ever widening horizon of achievement.

The future of Phi Kappa Tau can have no limitation except that of the measure of our loyalty to its ideals and our fidelity to its principles. We have become united as brothers at the call of Phi, Kappa, and Tau, Guided by their true light we shall yet achieve the goal which they envision.

To those whom we shall ever revere as Honored Founders our tribute is due. To them, our solemn salute as we go forward is an undying memory.