



THE PUBLIC FUNERAL RITES OF ALPHA PHI OMEGA

VERY IMPORTANT:

Brothers and Sisters must take great care to secure the clear approval and or permission of the parents or closest next-of-kin of the deceased Brother or Sister, before giving the rites. If the family of the deceased denies permission, the Brothers and Sisters must not insist in giving the Last Rites.

Caution should be observed in the proceedings so as not to offend the family of the deceased or any of the mourners present. The Ritual Team should be carefully selected for their proficiency in the delivery of the rites, which must be done in the most solemn and dignified manner possible.

Protocol dictates that the Ritual Team must come from the same chapter that the deceased belonged to. But if circumstances compel, alumni or resident members from other chapters can be requested to assist.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Members of Necrological Team:
 1. Prefect
 2. Scribe
 3. Auxiliary Chancellor
 4. Prime Chancellor
 5. Grand Chancellor

- Five (5) pairs of white gloves for the officers
- Five (5) ritual sashes turned inside out with back showing
- Three candles (One Blue, One Gold and One White) of the Chancellors
- One sword for the Prefect
- One Fraternity Banner (Coat of Arms or Seal)
- One Fraternity Pin



OPENING:

The officers (Ritual Team) will assemble outside the mourning room. They must be in proper formal attire in long-sleeved Barong Tagalog or long-sleeved shirt with tie. There must be no laughing or any form of hilarity that will disrupt the somber mood of the occasion. The solemnity of the event does not call for levity.

The Banner should have already been draped over the coffin.

The officers will in single file, March in slow procession to the Catafalque on this order:

1. The Prefect leading: with the drawn sword upside-down or the reverse
2. The Scribe carrying sacred roll of honor containing the APHIO membership history of the deceased'
3. The AC carrying the white candle
4. The PC carrying the yellow or gold candle
5. The GC carrying the blue candle and fraternity pin

As the officers reach the coffin the officers will assume a half moon semicircle position

GRAND CHANCELLOR:

Beloved Brothers and Sisters in Alpha Phi Omega. Dear friends and fellow mourners, we have gathered here on this sad occasion in the manner and character of Alpha Phi Omegans to manifest our grief and sorrow at the death of our kind. It is now our responsibility as his brothers and sisters to offer up our sincerest respect and fondest affection to him, who is one of us for the very last time. Before we proceed in this, our most somber undertaking, I call on our Brother Scribe to invoke the guidance of the Supreme Being.

SCRIBE: *(Motions his hand for the others to rise)*

Let us all join in prayer!

Almighty, all power and all merciful God, the supreme grand chancellor of all true Alpha Phi Omegans, we most humbly and reverently implore your guidance at this hour of our bereavement.

Grant that our departed (Brother/Sister) may be worthy of your compassion, and that as she crosses the threshold of the great beyond, the gates of heaven will open and permit (him/her) to enter and to join our Brothers and Sisters who have gone before us.

Until then oh lord, strengthen us and give us the courage to bear the unbearable.
AMEN!



GRAND CHANCELLOR:

Brother Scribe, let us be acquainted once more with our departed friend and brother. You will now read from the sacred roll of honor.

SCRIBE:

(Read from the Sacred Roll of Honor, the membership history of the deceased. Name in full, date of birth, last address, province, chapter...batch year and name...offices and positions held...awards and citations, if any...date of death.)

- The membership history of the deceased.
 - Full Name
 - Date of Birth
 - Residence Address
 - APO School and Chapter
 - Batch Year and Batch Name
 - APO ID Number
 - APO Batch Mates
 - APO Positions Held
 - Offices and Positions Held
 - Awards and Citations, if any...
 - Date of Death

GRAND CHANCELLOR:

The memories of our dear departed (brother/sister) have been refreshed in our minds. Let us now proceed with the solemn duty we owe to our dead.

AUXILLARY CHANCELLOR:

When our (brother/sister) was alive and amongst us, the spirit of service burned warmly in his heart and he committed himself to a lifelong dedication of looking out for the welfare and well-being of others, putting his own personal - last of all.

In (his/her) way, (he/she) contributed (his/her) share in serving humanity. In memory of our (brother/sister) and (his/her) unselfish sympathy to his fellowmen, I light the candle of service, a sacred principle in Alpha Phi Omega and sacred part of (his/her) life. *(Lights white candle...)*

PRIME CHANCELLOR:

The best way to find friends is to be one! So our ritual tells us.

Our (brother/sister) had extended (himself/herself) into the circle of friendship to everyone.



As we accepted (him/her) into the circle of our fraternal fellowship, so did (he/she) also accepted us as (his/her) brothers and sisters. As we shared the good times, so we also shared the bad. We became a part of (him/her) and (he/she) became a part of us.

(He/she) touched our lives in a very special way and as (his/her) admission among us added strength to our great fraternal chain, so did (his/her) death, weakened and subtracted one link in our sacred union.

In memory of the brotherhood we shared, I light the candle of friendship. (*Lights yellow candle...*)

GRAND CHANCELLOR:

Our beloved (brother/sister) joined a fraternity of leaders though (he/she) was a leader on (his/her) own right.

In Alpha Phi Omega, we honed and sharpened (his/her) inherent and natural skills to take the initiative and practice resourcefulness to their fullest potential.

(He/she) was unafraid to take the first step and to take and assume full responsibility for one's actions among the lessons taught to us in Alpha Phi Omega, is the great principle of leadership.

On our (brother's/sister's) passing to the void of eternity, a pillar has been struck down on the house of Alpha Phi Omega and one of the links that tightly bind our fraternal chain is severed.

Now, our brotherhood is at loss. In memory of (his/her), who had been a leader amongst us, I light the candle of leadership. (*Lights the blue candle...*)

GRAND CHANCELLOR:

Brother Prefect you will now perform your duty.

(The prefect still holding the drawn sword inverted upside-down: steps out of the semicircle and goes to the head of the coffin he reverses the position of the sword, brings it slowly to a salute and then brings the sword to order he then delivers the following..)

PREFECT:

The angel of death has once again visited the house of Alpha Phi Omega. His irresistible clutch has snatched from our midst, a brother, dearly beloved and greatly respected.

Sorrow... Sorrow... Sorrow...



No words can possibly describe our grief and no assurance can contain us in this great loss. Tragedy has descended upon us and not even the loving arms of friends, brothers and sisters can prevent the harbinger of horror to take away the life of a fellow Alpha Phi Omegas.

The circle is broken! The triangle is dented!

The dark, ominous clouds have shrouded our blue horizon and our golden sun has disappeared for the time being. Even its bright rays cannot penetrate the gloom of this sad occasion.

For a moment, the lights of Alpha Phi Omega are extinguished. And our beloved fraternity plunges into DARKNESS.

(At the word "darkness" the three chancellors extinguish their candles in three clearly distinct movements of the thumb and forefinger..) on the third and last movement, each will say:

GRAND CHANCELLOR: DARKNESS

PRIME CHANCELLOR: DARKNESS

AUXILIARY CHANCELLOR: DARKNESS

PREFECT: *(Continuing..)*

There is nothing more that can be done but to accept the will that is more powerful than ours. As mere creations of a supreme creator, it is our fate to submit to the will and pleasure of almighty being to whom we owe our existence. Such is our fate.

The lord giveth and the lord taketh away.

(The Prefect then brings his sword to a salute once more and then brings it to order at his right side. He then assumes the reverse upside down position of the drawn sword as before)

This fraternity pin, *(stretches his right hand forward and upward, holding the pin.)* is the symbol of our fraternal tie and the bond that unites us in friendship and brotherhood.

This emblem of our strength and union now becomes, on this sad occasion, the emblem that symbolizes the last act we offer to (his/her) memory... that (he/she) was once... one of us.

I now place this pin on your coffin dear (brother/sister), in testimony of our enduring love and respect for you. *(Place the pin on the coffin, near the head).*



GRAND CHANCELLOR:

The duties that we owe to our dear dead have been observed. The last wishes of our brother have been faithfully fulfilled. And, although we part in sorrow at the loss of one of our kind, we take comfort and consolation in the belief that in due time, we ourselves shall cross the great beyond and join them in the eternal fellowship in the grand celestial chapter above.

AUXILIARY CHANCELLOR:

The light of SERVICE is extinguished and we mourn the death of one of our servants.

PRIME CHANCELLOR:

The light of FRIENDSHIP is extinguished and we grieve for the passing of our friend. So is the light of LEADERSHIP also extinguished and we grieved for the loss of one of our leaders.

Goodbye dear friend, goodbye dear (brother/sister) [Name of the deceased](#) of [APOPH Chapter](#) with an ID Number of [ID Number](#).

SCRIBE:

Let us all join in prayer.

May the Almighty and Merciful God, the Supreme Grand Chancellor of all true Alpha Phi Omegas, cloak You in His love and protection and keep You in His heavenly care...

...Until we meet again.

(The APO Toast Song is sung in all solemnity, at the end of last verse, the brethren continue to hum the melody softly while the three chancellors smartly fold the banner into a triangle and the Great Chancellor presents it to the parents or next-of-kin with the parting words).



SCRIBE:

Let us now sing our toast song...

ALPHA PHI OMEGA
Toast Song
Here's to Alpha Phi Omega, Loyal Brothers we,
True to self and to each other, firm in loyalty.
Daily working, daily striving, ever more to be
Men of Alpha Phi Omega, Our Fraternity.

Brothers clasp the hands of Brothers, strong the circle we
Ever mindful, ever serving all humanity.

Now we raise our grateful voices in our song to thee:

Men of Alpha Phi Omega, may we always be.

GRAND CHANCELLOR:

We share in your grief and sorrow.

(The ritual team slowly marches out of the room. Ceremony ends).

-END-

