

ORDER OF CEREMONIES



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NATIONAL SOJOURNERS

The following program for the Opening and Closing ceremonies, and the reception of new members is issued for the instruction and guidance of the officers of all Chapters.

The President of the Chapter is responsible for the proper performance of these ceremonies, but can delegate parts to other officers, when in his judgment the impressiveness of the effect is promoted.

In these ceremonies, the effects to be desired are:

1. Proper reverence to Deity.
2. Proper respect to the emblem of our Country.
3. The promotion of the patriotic ideals of the National Sojourners.
4. Upholding the principle of National Defense.
5. The cultivation of fellowship and goodwill among Members and Masons.

These ceremonies are not secret but are something that any patriotic man or woman may listen to with fervor and satisfaction.

OPENING

(Prior to the Opening of the Chapter the Marshal should assure that the meeting place is in proper array; the National Colors and other flags should be readily available to the Color Bearers; the Charter of the Chapter should be prominently displayed; and the Holy Bible closed and in place either on a table or rostrum directly in front of the President with the Sojourner Medal and ribbon on top.)

(Note: Chapters may make the presentation of the Colors as elaborate as desired. It is not appropriate to use this portion of the ceremony if flags are prepositioned or miniature flags are used.) PRESIDENT: * [One rap (*) of the gavel. All are seated.]

Brethren, ladies and guests *(as appropriate)*, I am about to Open this Chapter of National Sojourners, Incorporated, and will thank you for your attention.

PRONOUNCEMENT

National Sojourners believe in God as the Supreme Architect of the Universe. We hold that political, economic, and social problems are subsidiary to and ever separate from that steadfast belief in God. We maintain that God must motivate man, if present day problems are to be solved, and we urge active participation in maintaining that Government for which our forefathers fought. Sojourners, remember that George Washington once said, "When we assumed the soldier we did not lay aside the citizen."

*[Note: President gives three raps (* * *) with gavel, all arise. After Flag(s) are in place with Color Bearer(s) standing fast; he continues.]*

PRESIDENT: * * * Brothers Marshal and Color Bearer(s), you will secure and present the Flag(s) of our Country and of National Sojourners.

PRESIDENT: All will join in the Pledge of Allegiance.

(Note: Following the Pledge of Allegiance, he orders the Colors to be posted, then the Color Guard retires.)

PRESIDENT: Brother _____ will now present the Toast to the Flag.

PRESIDENT: Brothers, Masonry teaches us that no great or important undertaking should be begun without first asking the aid of Deity. You will be reverently attentive while the Chaplain attends the Bible and invokes the Divine Blessing.

(Note: The Chaplain should approach the Bible, remove the Sojourner Medal and ribbon from the top, open the Bible to the 11th Chapter of St Luke, 21st to 23rd verses, place the Sojourner Medal and ribbon thereon and give the Opening Prayer, while facing the Chapter.)

CHAPLAIN:

OPENING PRAYER

O God our Father, Supreme Architect of man's destiny, we bow before Thee in reverence as we undertake the business of our brotherhood in this hour. We ask Thy guidance in the deliberations in which we shall engage and Thy blessing upon such transactions as we shall here accomplish.

God of compassion, comfort and strengthen those in sickness and distress.

Grant them and their loved ones Your constant Presence.

May the prosperity, ideals, and security of our Country be furthered and safeguarded.

May unity, harmony, and fraternity prevail in our midst. And may all that is said and done here prosper Thy Kingdom and glorify Thy Holy Name. AMEN.

PRESIDENT: Sojourners will remain standing. Ladies and guests may be seated. *(Pause for seating.)* Brothers, you will now give attention to the Purposes of National Sojourners.

(May be given by the President or a designated person.)

The Purposes of National Sojourners, shall be to organize current and former members of the uniformed forces of the United States and Honorary Members, who are Master Masons, into Chapters, for the promotion of good fellowship among its members, for assisting such as may be overtaken by adversity or affliction, for cultivating Masonic ideals, for supporting all patriotic aims and activities in Masonry, for developing true patriotism and Americanism throughout the nation, for bringing together representatives of the uniformed forces of the United States (past and present) in a united effort to further the military needs of National defense, and for opposing any influence whatsoever calculated to weaken the National security.

PRESIDENT: Brethren, do you reaffirm your loyalty to your Flag and Country, your obedience to its Constitution, your firm determination to combat all its enemies, your intention to support and strengthen the National defense, and your steady attachment to the principles of Freemasonry?

MEMBERS: I do.

PRESIDENT: May your conduct, as Sojourners and Citizens, be guided by these principles and our Country profited by your lives.

PRESIDENT: Without further ceremony, I now declare _____ Chapter No. _____, National Sojourners, to be open.

* [One rap (*) of the gavel. All are seated.]

(Note: The President may eliminate those portions of the usual Order of Business, when they are not appropriate to the purpose of the meeting.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS:

Welcome All and Introductions, including guests.
Minutes of previous meeting(s).
Treasurer's Report.
Candlelight Memorial Service *(if appropriate - see page 12 for Service.)*.
Sick or In Distress Report – All may report.
Correspondence.
Report of Membership Committee.
Receiving and Referring of Applications.
Initiation of Candidate(s).
Reports of Committees.
Old and/or Unfinished Business.
New Business.
Closing.

INITIATION OF CANDIDATE(S)

PRESIDENT: Brother Secretary, are there any candidates present and in waiting, who have been regularly elected?

SECRETARY: Brother President, there is one (or ____ candidates) candidate present for initiation.

PRESIDENT: Brother Marshal, present him (or them) for initiation.

MARSHAL: Brother President, I have the pleasure of presenting Brother(s) _____ for initiation.

(Note: The President may delegate part of the following charge and obligation.)

PRESIDENT: The Purposes of National Sojourners were presented in the Opening ceremony. Brother _____ will now give you the Lecture.

LECTURE

Masonry is the world's greatest example of individualistic evolution. If we can turn the rough ashlar of our Character into a more perfect harmony, if we can subdue the unworthy passions of selfishness and greed within us, we can obtain a happier family, a more stable society, and a Nation purer in its accomplishments.

To be selected by your Brothers here, you must be a Mason not in word only, not a member by obligation simply, but true indeed without reservation. As you have pledged yourself to be true to your Brother, your neighbor, and yourself, you have also taken the oath of service to your Country. You are, or have been, a member(s) in the military or naval establishments of the United States Government or elected to Honorary membership.

Let your eyes rest upon the beautiful Flag of your Country, an emblem conceived by Masons and representing Masonic ideals. Under it you must serve with a lofty patriotism and a zealous devotion, which expresses itself in loyal obedience to our Country's laws, as well as a sacrifice to our Country's needs.

So, live day-by-day that the Nation shall be prospered through your industry, established through your fidelity, and honored through your integrity. Such service to your Country becomes possible only when the individual man

becomes a true Masonic Brother, strong in the integrity of his actions, zealous in his Trust in God, and firm in his Faith of his Country's ideals.

PRESIDENT: * * * [*Three raps (* * *) of gavel, all rise.*]

My Brother(s), if you still desire to continue, you will take the position of a soldier at ATTENTION, place your right hand over your heart, and repeat after me the Sojourner Obligation.

SOJOURNER OBLIGATION

I / give your name in full / and repeat after me / do solemnly and sincerely promise and vow, / that I will do all in my power / to advance and promote / the interests of National Sojourners / and that I will faithfully uphold and support / the Laws, Rules, and Regulations of the Order / so far as they may come to my notice.

I furthermore promise / that I will abide by and conform to / the Constitution and By-Laws / of _____ Chapter No. _____, / or those of any other Chapter of which I may become a member. / To the faithful performance of this obligation / I solemnly pledge my word.

PRESIDENT: All will recite with me (*or repeat after me*) the AMERICAN'S CREED.

I BELIEVE in the United States of America, / as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, / whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; / a democracy in a Republic, / a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, / a perfect Union, / one and inseparable, / established upon those principles of Freedom, / equality, justice, and humanity, / for which American Patriots / sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I THEREFORE BELIEVE / it is my duty to my Country to love it, / to support its Constitution, / to obey its laws, / to respect its Flag, / and to defend it against all enemies.

PRESIDENT: * [*One rap (*) of gavel*]

All but the new member(s) be seated.

My Brother(s), I am happy to extend to you the right hand of fellowship, to congratulate you on becoming a Sojourner(s) and I feel honored to welcome you into _____ Chapter No. ____, National Sojourners. I earnestly remind you, however, of our purpose of supporting all patriotic activities and aims in Masonry, of cultivating Masonic ideals, and of furthering the glory and honor of our Country.

Brother Secretary, you will present the new Brother(s) the membership card (*and the Sojourner Medal*). You will now receive the lecture on the Sojourner Medal given by Brother _____.

LECTURER: (*Gives lecture on the Sojourner Medal, see page 11.*)

[Optional: *National Sojourners History Lecture, see page 33.*]

PRESIDENT: Please take your seat with the other members.

CLOSING CEREMONY

PRESIDENT: Before proceeding to close this Chapter, has anyone present anything to offer to advance our objects?

* * * [*Three raps (* * *) of the gavel.*]

All rise. Brother Chaplain, attend the Bible and give the Closing Prayer.

CHAPLAIN: (Note: *Chaplain gives Closing Prayer, while facing the Chapter. He then removes the Sojourner Medal and ribbon, closes the Bible, and places the Sojourner Medal and ribbon on outside of Bible.*)

ALMIGHTY GOD in whom we live and move and have our being, and through whom are all things built, if they are to endure, we lay before Thee the plans of our Order, the aspirations of our hearts, and the work of our hands, asking that they may be found acceptable in Thy sight. As we have collaborated here in Thy presence and under Thy guidance, may we, as we go our separate ways, carry with us the inspiration of the hour. May each in his respective walk of life give practical expression and helpful furtherance to the ideals that here prevail.

Forgive us our transgressions and abide with us in all the vicissitudes of life.

Make happy our homes and loved ones, prosper our community and Nation, and lead us all to Thy glory in service to Thee, our Country, our fellow man, and, Oh Lord, please guide and protect our uniformed forces wherever dispersed. AMEN.

PRESIDENT: Brothers, to promote harmony among our members and to zealously guard our Country's welfare, should motivate all our actions.

PRESIDENT: Brothers Marshal and Color Bearer(s) retire the Colors.

[Note: *Marshal and Color Bearer(s) advance, secure and retire Colors. If Colors are to be retired "in-place" or miniature flags are used, this portion will be omitted.*]

PRESIDENT: I now declare _____ Chapter No. _____
National Sojourners, closed. * [*One rap (*) of gavel.*]

CANDLELIGHT MEMORIAL SERVICE

(Note: This service should be presented from a place near the Bible in front of the audience. The service can be done by one member doing all of the LIGHTS or by having a different member doing each of the three LIGHTS and the Chaplain giving the prayer.)

I bring light to this red candle (*light the candle*), a symbol of courage and sacrifice. This light represents the ready response of our departed Brother, who willingly answered the call to service in a time of National peril. His example of courage and sacrifice in defense and preservation of our cherished freedom, lights the way to all whom now mourn his departure. He has etched upon life's trestleboard, such a plan as will promote those high ideals of Freemasonry, faith, hope, and love. As we honor his memory, we implore Thee, Almighty God, to grant him eternal rest and peace, and to bring comfort and consolation to those who mourn his passing.

I bring light to this white candle (*light the candle*), a symbol of purity. May it remind us of the purity of life, and rectitude of conduct, so essentially necessary to gain admission to that Celestial Lodge above, to which all Sojourners are advancing. May this white light guide us to Thee, the source of all comfort and peace.

I bring light to this blue candle (*light the candle*), a symbol of fidelity and faithfulness, those sterling qualities of Freemasonry our Brother has demonstrated through his faithfulness in duty to his country, his loyalty to his sacred vows and his devotion to his loved ones. As the sun, moon, and stars light up the heavens, so may these lighted candles be a guiding light to inspire us to more devoted service to God and country.

CHAPLAIN: Hear our prayer, O God, and hide not Thy face from our petition, our hearts are disquieted within us as we are again reminded that we are born to die. Yet our hearts shall rejoice because we trust in Thy Holy name. Grant us Thy peace, O Lord, and let Thy merciful kindness be upon us, for we put our trust in Thee. Comfort all who mourn and give them strength of heart. We praise and honor Thee, O God, and seek to follow the light of Thy truth. May these three lights inspire our brethren to increased loyalty and devotion to Thee and to our country. In Thy Holy name, we pray. AMEN.

THE SOJOURNER MEDAL LECTURE

My Brother(s):

Let your eyes rest upon the medal before you, which is a reproduction of the great seal of the National Sojourners. Inscribed thereon are several symbols with which you are already familiar.

The first, which strikes your eye, is the Square and Compass, which you first beheld in this form upon being raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Flowing from the top of the Compass is a banner, bearing the Latin phrase, "Ex Oriente Lux," which translated means, "Light from the East," and alludes to that source from which all true Masonic Light is shed.

Across the working tools of the Speculative Mason is laid a golden bar, which bears the word "SOJOURNERS" on it, and denotes the close relationship, which exists between the two Orders.

Below the Masonic working tools, with widespread wings partially surrounding them, is a golden eagle, which is emblematic of our great nation and its military establishment, to which you have pledged your loyalty.

Beneath the eagle, in golden letters, is the word "NATIONAL," which alludes to our close and patriotic attachment to our country and truly marks this as being the Great Seal of our Order.

These words and symbols are laid upon a field of white, which alludes to that purity of heart and soul expected to be a part of every Master Mason and Sojourner.

Spread throughout the field are thirteen blue stars, which are to remind you of those thirteen original colonies that labored so long and bravely to gain for us liberty and independence from a tyrant. Let us not forget that many of the gallant men who led our forces to victory in that struggle were also Master Masons.

Washington, Warren, Montgomery, Clinton, Lee and Lafayette were among our brethren during those times of peril, and with their blood marked the path of duty to God and Country which we as Masons and Sojourners, now follow.

And lest you forget the supreme sacrifice, which has been paid by those gallant Brothers who have gone before, direct your attention to the thin red line, which completely encircles our seal. We trust that it will never fall your lot to offer your life in defense of our country. But if such becomes the case, we are confident that you will respond to duty's call in a manner reflecting credit upon our Fraternity, our Order, and yourself.

SOJOURNER INSTALLATION CEREMONY

FOREWORD. This ceremony is so worded as to be appropriate and is prescribed for the installation of officers at both the Chapter and National levels.

PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS

1. Prior to installing, the INSTALLING OFFICER should appoint, to assist him, an INSTALLING CHAPLAIN, an INSTALLING SECRETARY and an INSTALLING MARSHAL; and instruct each of them as to the performance of their duties.
2. The INSTALLING OFFICER should have in his possession the jewel of office for the incoming President (and the bar or badge for the outgoing President, if he has been designated to present it). Also, he will insure that the organization's Charter is present.
3. Both the INSTALLING SECRETARY and the INSTALLING MARSHAL should be provided with a list of the officers to be installed. If any of these should be absent, the name of his "Proxy" should be listed beside his name and the designated Proxy be called upon to "stand-in" for him.
4. The INSTALLING MARSHAL shall be directed to place the incoming officers, as their names are called, in a line and facing the INSTALLING OFFICER, with the elected President on the right.

THE INSTALLATION CEREMONY

(The Installing Officer is introduced by, and receives the gavel from, the outgoing President or other presiding officer, and proceeds as follows:)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Thank you, Brother President. Brethren, ladies and guests, it is a very real privilege and pleasure to have been called upon to install these officers whom you have elected. I shall be assisted in this ceremony by Brother _____ as Installing Chaplain, Brother _____ as Installing Secretary and Brother _____ as Installing Marshal.

Since every Freemason professes a belief in the existence and omnipotence of Deity, let us look to our Grand Commander, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, for guidance and direction. Brother Chaplain, you will please lead us in our devotion to Deity.

* * * (Three raps of the gavel.)

INSTALLING CHAPLAIN: Great and Grand Commander of us all. Thou who art the great Preserver and Director of the world and all that dwell therein, we implore Thy blessing upon this assembly of Thy children who, gratefully acknowledging Thy mercy and goodness, now renew their fidelity to Thy law and pray for the desire and strength to do Thy will. Bless, we beseech Thee, our labors on behalf of our country, and may we always be staunch and loyal in our devotion to her welfare and cause. Give to those who are about to be invested with official authority and leadership the will to serve, the knowledge to direct, and the power to perform those duties and obligations that shall be theirs. And may we all continue to enjoy the blessings that are the reward of the faithful. Amen.

*(One rap to seat the audience.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Secretary, kindly read the names of the officers-elect, together with the title of the office in which each is to be installed. And Brother Marshal, as their names are called, you will please escort each of these Brothers to his designated position in front of my station.

(When all are in position, the Installing Officer proceeds.)

My Brothers, you have been chosen to serve as the officers of this organization, thereby guiding its destiny during the forthcoming year. Are you willing to accept this trust? (After all answer in the affirmative:)

Officers to be installed --- ABOUT FACE!

Brother Sojourners, BEHOLD! Before me, you see those whom you have selected to serve as your officers during the coming year. Are you still satisfied with your choice?

(All Sojourners vote and the Installing Officer continues)

Officers to be installed --- ABOUT FACE!

There being no objection, I will now proceed to invest you with the duties and responsibilities of the several offices to which you have been elected. But first, you will assume the position of a soldier at attention, place your right hand over your heart, and repeat after me the following solemn obligation:

All Sojourners will please rise. *** (Three raps of the gavel.)

Say I, *state your name in full*, / SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY PROMISE AND VOW / ON MY HONOR AS A MASTER MASON / THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY / FAITHFULLY PERFORM ALL OF THE DUTIES / PERTAINING TO THE OFFICE / WITH WHICH I AM ABOUT TO BE INVESTED. / THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY UPHOLD AND SUPPORT / THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS PERTAINING THERETO / AND THAT I WILL DO EVERYTHING IN MY POWER / TO ADVANCE AND PROMOTE / THE WELFARE OF OUR ORDER.

AT EASE! --- * (One rap of the gavel.)

INSTALLING OFFICER, to the OUTGOING PRESIDENT: Brother _____, you will now present the charter of this organization to Brother _____, the incoming President.

(The OUTGOING PRESIDENT performs this function with appropriate brief remarks.)

INSTALLING OFFICER to the INCOMING PRESIDENT: Brother _____, having made your vows and received the charter of this organization, may I now remind you more specifically of the character and responsibilities of your position of leadership. Henceforth, it is your duty to direct, coordinate and supervise the planning and execution of all programs and generate enthusiastic support toward their accomplishment; to preside over all meetings of the organization and insure compliance with the Constitution and By-Laws and pertinent Procedural Directives; to maintain and strengthen the character of our Masonic relationships; and to engender constructive effort from which pride of membership is derived. To perform successfully, you must familiarize yourself with all of your requirements and, by your own conduct, set an example which members need not hesitate to follow. The gavel, which will soon be placed in your hands, is the symbol of your authority and, as none should disobey it, we trust that you will wield it with firmness, but always with discretion and justice.

INSTALLING OFFICER (to the remainder of the officers): My Brothers, in selecting you for your respective offices, your fellow Sojourners definitely recognize your past interest and accomplishments but, more importantly, they place great reliance upon your continuing devotion to Masonic principles and energetic furtherance of the Purposes of National Sojourners. I, therefore, charge that you consider your selection to be both an honor and a distinct challenge: a highly prized opportunity for further dedicated service. Your specific duties are implicit in the title of your office and are encompassed in the Constitution and By-Laws, together with such directives as you may receive from time to time from your President. In addition, I particularly charge that each of you thoroughly familiarize yourself with the duties and functions of your immediate superior officer and that you be fully prepared to assume those responsibilities in the event of absence or vacancy. This contingency may occur when least expected and your organization must

not suffer from lack of qualified continuity. The progress and prestige of this organization, together with its influence in the Masonic and civil life of our community of interest, rest squarely upon your shoulders. We wish you well and may your efforts prove that our confidence in you has been worthily bestowed.

And now, as evidence that we are one in faith, one in hope and one in charity, will all please rise and repeat after me, the American Creed.

* * *(Three raps of the gavel.)

I BELIEVE in the United States of America, / as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, / whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; / a democracy in a Republic, / a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, / a perfect Union, / one and inseparable, / established upon those principles of Freedom, / equality, justice and humanity, / for which American Patriots / sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I THEREFORE BELIEVE / it is my duty to my Country to love it, / to support its Constitution, / to obey its laws, / to respect its Flag, / and to defend it against all enemies.

*(One rap of the gavel.)

So now, my Brothers, by virtue of the authority invested in me as Installing Officer, I declare each of these officers to have been duly and properly installed in his respective office. Brother Marshal, you will make proclamation to that effect to all within the sound of your voice.

INSTALLING MARSHAL: I am directed to proclaim, and I do now proclaim that each of the incoming officers of this organization of National Sojourners, Inc., has been duly and properly installed in his respective office.

INSTALLING OFFICER: All officers, except the President, may be seated. The President will kindly join me.

(The President joins the Installing Officer at the rostrum.)

Now, my Brother, we come to the final act of this installation ceremony-- the permanent relinquishment of the gavel to you, as the symbol of your authority. Henceforth, it is yours to wield and we feel confident that, at the close of your term of office, your successor will receive it from honored hands. The Charter, which you now hold, is the authority under

which this organization is permitted to function. It is to be displayed at every meeting and is to be presented to your successor at his installation.

Brother President, it is a very real distinction to be chosen to preside over a body of National Sojourners, all of whose members have, in addition to the ties of Masonic Brotherhood, the common experience of service to our Country to bind them together for the common weal. I now invest you with the emblematic badge of your office, which I am sure you will wear with pleasure to yourself and with a full sense of responsibility to our Order.

Now that the leadership is yours, I offer one final reminder. Yours is a position that wealth cannot buy but which is willingly accorded to one whom, by word and deed, has shown a love of flag, and home, and friend. We rejoice in your accession to this place of honor and pledge to you our hearty support.

* * * * *

(Hereafter, the newly installed President presides.)

1. Making such remarks as he may desire, which should include appreciative remarks with regard to the Installing Officer.
2. Presentation (by himself or by a designated person) of the Past President's Badge (or Bar).
3. Further business and closing of the meeting.

JOINT INSTALLATION CEREMONY

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS & HEROES OF '76

FOREWORD. This Joint Ceremony has been developed from the standing Installation Ceremonies for Sojourners and Heroes of '76, respectively. It is suitable for Chapter or National installation purposes. By elimination of verbiage applying to one or the other of these organizations, it can be used for separate installations.

PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS AND INSTRUCTIONS.

1. Prior to installing, the INSTALLING OFFICER should appoint, to assist him, an INSTALLING CHAPLAIN, an INSTALLING SECRETARY, and an INSTALLING MARSHAL; and instruct each of them as to the performance of their duties.
2. The INSTALLING OFFICER should have in his possession, or immediately available, the jewels of office for the incoming President and Commander (and the bars or badges for the outgoing President and Commander, if he has been designated to present them). He will also insure that both the Sojourner and Heroes Charters are present.
3. Both the INSTALLING SECRETARY and the INSTALLING MARSHAL should be provided with a list of the elected and appointed officers of the National Sojourners and Heroes of '76 to be installed. If any of these be absent, the name of his "Proxy" should be listed beside his name and the designated Proxy be called upon to "stand-in" for him.
4. The INSTALLING MARSHAL shall be directed to place the incoming officers, as their names are called, in position facing the INSTALLING OFFICER, as follows:

SOJOURNER PRESIDENT AND HEROES COMMANDER

Directly in front of the Installing Officer.

SOJOURNER OFFICERS (elected and appointed)

In a column (of threes or fours, as space may dictate), elected officers in the leading rank, immediately to the rear and extending to the right of the Sojourner President.

HEROES OFFICERS (elected and appointed) In a column (of threes or fours, as space may dictate), elected officers in the leading rank, immediately to the rear and extending to the left of the Heroes Commander.

DIAGRAM

* INSTALLING OFFICER

HEROES' COMMANDER (HC)		(SP) SOJOURNER PRESIDENT
ELECTED HEROES	HHHH	SSSS ELECTED SOJOURNERS
APPOINTED HEROES	AAAA	AAAA APPOINTED SOJOURNERS
	AAA	AAA

JOINT INSTALLATION CEREMONY

The Installing Officer is introduced by and receives the gavel from, the outgoing President or other Presiding Officer, and proceeds as follows:

INSTALLING OFFICER: Thank you, Brother President. Brethren, ladies and guests, it is a privilege and pleasure for me to install the elected (and appointed) officers of Chapter No. ____ of National Sojourners, and _____ Camp of the Heroes of '76.

I shall be assisted in this ceremony by Brother _____, as Installing Chaplain, Brother _____, as Installing Secretary and Brother _____, as Installing Marshal.

Since every Freemason professes belief in the existence and omnipotence of Deity, let us look to our Grand Commander, the Supreme Architect of the Universe, for guidance and direction.

Brother Chaplain, you will please lead us in our devotion to Deity.

* * * (Three raps of gavel.)

INSTALLING CHAPLAIN: Great and Grand Commander of us all, Thou who art the Great Creator, the Preserver and Director of the World and all that dwell therein. We implore Thy blessing upon this assembly of Thy Children who, gratefully acknowledging Thy mercy and goodness, now renew their fidelity to Thy law, and pray for the desire and strength to do Thy will. Bless, we beseech Thee, our labors in behalf of our country, and may we always be staunch and loyal in our devotion to her welfare and cause. Give to those who are about to be invested with official authority and leadership the will to serve, the knowledge to direct, and the power to perform those duties and obligations that shall be theirs. And may we all continue to enjoy the blessings that are the reward of the faithful. Amen. *(One rap of the gavel.)

INSTALLING OFFICER: Brother Secretary, kindly read the names of the officers-elect and appointed, together with the title of the office in which each is to be installed. And Brother Marshal, as their names are called, you will please escort each of these Brothers to his designated position in front of my station.

(When all are in position, (SEE DIAGRAM), the Installing Officer proceeds.)

My Brothers, you have been chosen to serve as the officers of Chapter No. _____, National Sojourners and _____ Camp, Heroes of '76, during the coming year. Are you willing to accept this trust?

(After all answer in the affirmative:)

Officers to be installed -- ABOUT FACE!

Brother members of this chapter, behold! To my left front you see those whom you recently have selected to serve as the officers of your chapter during the coming year. Are you still satisfied with your choice?

(All Sojourners vote.)

Brother Heroes of '76, again behold! To my right front you see those whom you have selected to serve as the officers of your Camp during the coming year. Heroes only, voting: Are you still satisfied with your choice? (After all answer in the affirmative:)

Officers to be installed -- ABOUT FACE!

There being no objection, I will now proceed to invest you with the duties and responsibilities of the several offices to which you have been elected (or appointed). But first, you will assume the position of a soldier, at attention, place your right hand over your heart, and repeat after me the following obligation:

All Sojourners will please rise. *** (Three raps of the gavel.)

Say I, state your name in full, DO SOLEMNLY AND SINCERELY PROMISE AND VOW / ON MY HONOR AS A MASTER MASON / THAT I WILL TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY / FAITHFULLY PERFORM ALL OF THE DUTIES / PERTAINING TO THE OFFICE / WITH WHICH I AM ABOUT TO BE INVESTED THAT I WILL FAITHFULLY UPHOLD AND SUPPORT / THE CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS OF NATIONAL SOJOURNERS AND THOSE OF THIS CHAPTER; / FURTHERMORE, THAT I WILL DO EVERYTHING

IN MY POWER / TO ADVANCE AND PROMOTE / THE INTEREST AND WELFARE OF OUR ORDER.

HEROES OF '76 OFFICERS, ONLY: Repeat after me this additional obligation: I FULLY RECOGNIZE THIS CAMP OF HEROES / TO BE AN AFFILIATE OF / AND SUBORDINATE TO THE WILL / OF THIS SOJOURNER CHAPTER; / THAT THE DEGREE IS TO BE CONFERRED AS A REWARD / UPON SELECTED SOJOURNERS / AND AS AN INSPIRATION / TO FURTHER THE PURPOSES OF NATIONAL SOJOURNERS.

AT EASE! -- * (One rap of the gavel.)

INSTALLING OFFICER to the OUTGOING PRESIDENT: Brother _____, you will now present the charter of this chapter to Brother _____, the incoming President.

(The OUTGOING PRESIDENT performs this function, with appropriate brief remarks.)

INSTALLING OFFICER to the OUTGOING COMMANDER, HEROES OF '76: Brother _____ you will now present the charter of this Camp of the Heroes of '76 to Brother _____, the incoming Commander.

(The OUTGOING COMMANDER performs this function, with appropriate brief remarks.)

INSTALLING OFFICER (To the Incoming President and Commander):

Brothers _____ and _____, having made your vows and received the charters of your organizations, may I now remind you more specifically of the character and responsibilities of your respective positions of leadership. Henceforth, it is your duty to plan for and preside over all meetings of your chapter and camp; to enforce obedience to your National Constitution and By-laws, as well as to those of your local organization; to be responsive to current expressions of policy from your National President and Commander, and to function cooperatively between yourselves to further our national and local purposes. To perform successfully, you must familiarize yourselves with all of your respective requirements and, by your own conduct, set an example, which the members need not hesitate to follow. The gavel, which will soon be placed in your hands, is the symbol of your authority and, as none should disobey it, I trust that you will wield it with firmness, but always with discretion and justice.

To the elected and appointed officers, I charge that you must fully realize that our selection of you for these offices, while it is in recognition of your capabilities and interest,

it more importantly represents our faith in your future performance. It should be considered by you not only as an honor but also as a distinct challenge; a highly prized opportunity for further devoted and dedicated service. We feel assured that you will not betray our trust.

Your specific duties are implicit in the title of your office and are encompassed in your respective Constitutions and By-Laws. Hence, there is no need to review them at this time. I do, however, charge the Sojourner Vice Presidents and the Heroes Chief of Staff, to thoroughly familiarize themselves with the functions of their immediately superior officers and be fully prepared to assume such positions in the event of absence or vacancy. This contingency may occur when least expected and your organization must not suffer from lack of qualified continuity. The progress and prestige of this chapter and its Heroes Camp, together with their influence in the Masonic and civic life of the community rest squarely upon your shoulders. We wish you well and may your efforts prove that our confidence in you has been worthily bestowed.

And now, as evidence that we are one in faith, one in hope and one in charity, will all please rise and repeat after me, the American Creed.

* * * (Three raps of the gavel.)

I BELIEVE in the United States of America, / as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, / whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; / a democracy in a Republic, / a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, / a perfect Union, / one and inseparable, / established upon those principles of Freedom, / equality, justice and humanity, / for which American Patriots / sacrificed their lives and fortunes.

I THEREFORE BELIEVE / it is my duty to my Country to love it, / to support its Constitution, / to obey its laws, / to respect its Flag, / and to defend it against all enemies.

* (One rap of the gavel.)

So now, my Brothers, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Installing Officer, I declare all of the officers of _____ Chapter # _____ National Sojourners, and those of _____ Camp, Heroes of '76, duly installed. Brother Marshal, you will make proclamation to that effect to all within the sound of your voice.

INSTALLING MARSHAL: I am directed to proclaim, and I do now proclaim that the President and other officers of _____ Chapter # ____ National Sojourners, and the Commander and other officers of _____ Camp, Heroes of '76, have been duly and properly installed.

INSTALLING OFFICER: All Officers, except the President and Commander, may be seated. The President and Commander will kindly join me.

(They join the Installing Officer at the rostrum.)

My Brothers, we now come to the final act of this installation ceremony - the permanent relinquishment of the gavel to each of you, as the symbol of your authority. Henceforth, they are yours to wield and we feel confident that, at the close of your terms of office, your successors will receive them from honored hands. The charters, which you now hold, are the authority under which your chapter and camp are permitted to function. They are to be displayed at every meeting and are to be presented to your successors at their installation.

Brother President, it is a very real distinction to be chosen to preside over a chapter of National Sojourners, all of whose members have, in addition to the ties of Masonic Brotherhood, the common experience of service to our country, to bind them together for the common weal. I now invest you with the emblematic badge of your office, which I am sure you will wear with pleasure to yourself and with a full sense of responsibility to our Order.

Brother Commander, your Sojourner President and we Heroes of '76, rely upon you to uphold the tenets and rigidly adhere to the landmarks of our Order. And we trust that you will require such proficiency in your staff as to inspire a greater appreciation of our heritage, in your recruits. I now invest you with the emblematic badge of your office. May you wear it with pride and the satisfaction that derives from accomplishment.

To both of you, now that the leadership is yours, I offer one final reminder. Yours are positions that wealth cannot buy, but which are willingly accorded to those who, by word and deed, have shown a love of flag, and home, and friend. We rejoice at your accession to these places of honor, and pledge to you our hearty support.

(Hereafter, the SOJOURNER PRESIDENT presides.)

1. Making such remarks as he may desire, which should include complimentary remarks with regard to the Installing Officer.
2. Calling upon the Heroes Commander for his remarks.
3. Presentation by a designated person, of Past President's and Past Commander's badges (or bars).
4. Further business and closing of the meeting.

NSI BURIAL SERVICE

The following service has been prepared for the use of chapters of National Sojourners, Incorporated, in paying the last respects to Brethren, but owing to various reasons incident to military or naval service, cannot always be arranged. The service is a Masonic service yet it is not a substitute for the ancient rites of the Masonic fraternity of which each National Sojourner is a member in good standing. The National Sojourner service brings together common ties in our country's service and fraternal affiliations of the Brethren who wish to pay their respect as National Sojourners to our departed Brethren.

At the home or place of worship the Chaplain stands at the head of the casket or right of the cremains and the President (or other chosen National Sojourner) stands at the foot of the casket or left of the cremains.

PRESIDENT or designated spokesman

Dear Friends, we are gathered in this place of shadows in order that we may share the sorrow of these relatives and that we may personally mourn –

“For the touch of a vanished hand and the sound of a voice that is still.

”We do not come like the Greek philosophers did, believing that the soul's relationship to the body is that of a harp and its harmony whose music ceases when the harp is broken. But rather we come believing that the music of our Brother's soul will continue forever. Like all National Sojourners, Brother (name) was a firm believer in the existence of a Supreme Being and in the triumph of eternal life over death. It is in this faith that we have come to honor the life and death of Brother (name).

I now call upon the Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN:

A reading from Psalm 121.

I lift up my eyes to the mountains-
Where does my help come from?
My help comes from the Lord,
The Maker of heaven and earth.

He will not let your foot slip-

He who watches over you will not slumber; Indeed, He who watches over Israel Will neither slumber nor sleep.

The Lord watches over you-
The Lord is your shade at your right hand; The sun will not harm you by day, Nor the moon by night.

The Lord will keep you from all harm. He will watch over your life;
The Lord will watch over your coming
And going both now and forevermore.

CHAPLAIN:

Let us pray: O Lord our God whose mercy is everlasting, let us not be confounded or dismayed in this sad time. We are all sojourners in a strange land and heaven is our eternal home. Grant unto those that mourn here Your special blessing and comfort. Prepare our minds and hearts for the life with its vicissitudes and responsibilities or for death with all its mysteries and solemnities. Bring us finally through Your grace to everlasting life, world without end. Amen.

PRESIDENT or designated spokesman

Dear friends, we have gathered here today to pay our last tribute of fraternal affection to the Brother whom God has touched with His finger and called from the labors of life to repose which follows all activity. Though we miss our Brother, yet we console ourselves with the thought that God never shuts one door but that He opens another.

"The tomb is not a blind alley; it is a thoroughfare.

It closes on the twilight; it opens on the dawn."

Poets, too, have left us messages of hope:

"Death is another life. We bow our heads

At going out, we think, and enter straight

Another chamber of the king's which is

Larger and lovelier than this one we leave."

Words of consolation have been given us and which enable us to lift our hearts and to take comfort in this hour of sorrow:

"Never the spirit was born;
The spirit shall cease to be
never; Never was the time
it was not:
End and beginning are dreams!
Birthless and deathless and changeless
Remains the spirit forever,
Death has not touched it at all,
Death though the house of it seems."
"Nay but as one lays
His worn-out robes away,
And takes new ones, says
'These I shall wear today!'
So, puts by the spirit
Lightly its garment of flesh,
And passes to inherit
A residence afresh."

Evidence of life and growth and immortality is always about us. The trees, which almost imperceptibly clothe themselves with the verdure of spring, bloom for a time, and then assume the hues of autumn and finally fade away. They reveal to us a mystery; for is not all life a mystery? Though the leaves wither and fall away, we do not sadden or lose hope, for we know that in the spring to come life will return. How, then, can we doubt that the soul of man, made in the image of his Creator will not continue in its deathless life, even though the habitation in which we knew it lies silent and still? Yes, my friends, life is eternal. The soul continues to exist after this change we call death. The firm and unshaken belief in immortality is not an idle dream, the yearning for something which we would know, yet doubt. The ties which bind us to those whom we love, are insoluble and cannot be broken by this mysterious change, this state of repose and silence. Outward proof may not be forthcoming, but in our innermost hearts --- in that chamber of reflection where we have been taught to meet our Maker in prayer --- we know that we are still linked with our dear ones and that they belong to us forever.

Our Brother, whose empty house now lies before us, has passed beyond the need of our ministrations, our affection and our love. His work on earth is done; it is the living, and not those who are at rest, who have concern for the days which remain to us. Let us pledge anew to ever keep our house in order, so that we may quit our earthly tenements with the courage and faith which mark the departure of those who go on before. Let us turn our hearts to God,

and in this solemn hour, reconsecrate ourselves to His service and to the service of our Brethren. Let us give our reverent attention to our Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN:

Father of all mankind, we come to You in this hour of sorrow with open hearts. You have welcomed into Your greater life our beloved Brother who precedes us but a short time toward the goal which marks the accomplishment of our earthly sojourn. Grant us Your aid, we beseech, so to live that when our summons comes to lay down the tools in the quarries, we, too, may come unafraid and with lifted faces. Help us to perceive and take to our hearts the lessons which abound about us; help us to become more tolerant toward our fellowmen, and to show to them the compassion which You bestow upon us; help us to exemplify in our daily lives those virtues which mark Your children. Grant unto those who mourn here Your special blessing and consolation. Comfort them with the knowledge and faith that life's mysteries and solemnities finally bring us through Your grace to everlasting life. Amen.

(Here may follow such address or sermon as may have been provided for. After which the Chaplain may be called upon for a short prayer, and the body then taken to the grave.)

SERVICE AT THE GRAVE

[After the casket has been placed upon the grave and the Flag has been removed, the President of the Chapter will say):

PRESIDENT: Let us be reminded again that we are assembled here as members of an ancient and honorable Brotherhood. In our capacity as National Sojourners we solemnly make this declaration to honor our Brother whose mortal remains are now about to be laid to rest: Please repeat after me The American's Creed.

I BELIEVE in the United States of America, / as a government of the people, by the people, for the people, / whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; / a democracy in a Republic, / a sovereign Nation of many sovereign States, / a perfect Union, / one and inseparable, / established upon those principles of Freedom, / equality, justice and humanity, / for which American Patriots / sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I THEREFORE BELIEVE / it is my duty to my Country to love it, / to support its Constitution, / to obey its laws, / to respect its Flag, / and to defend it against all enemies.

(After reading the above, turn toward the grave, and say):

My Brother,
"Thy day has come, not gone;
Thy sun has risen, not set;
Thy life is now beyond
The reach of death or change,
Not ended --- but begun,
Oh, noble soul. O, gentle
heart, Hail and farewell
Hail --- and farewell"

(The sign will then be given to lower the casket into the grave, while the Chaplain will make the following or optional, prayer):

CHAPLAIN:

Almighty and most Merciful God, our Heavenly Father, from whom our spirits came and to whom they shall return, grant unto all sorrowing hearts the consolation of Your grace. May we find in You our sure strength and refuge. May we look forward with confidence to that time when we, too, shall enter the life eternal, and take our abode in that house not made with hands, eternal in the Heavens. AMEN.

If the deceased was a Christian the Chaplain may request "Please join me reciting The Lord's Prayer"

NATIONAL SOJOURNERS HISTORY LECTURE

National Sojourners, Inc. has an unequaled military Masonic history. Born of the requirements of wartime, the Order has been nurtured by the desire of displaced military Masons to seek each other's company, counsel and aid.

Early in 1900, after the North Dakota Regiment departed the Philippines with its Field Lodge dispensation, a group of Masons organized an informal club and named it "Sojourners." In 1901, these Sojourners provided the impetus, funds and paraphernalia to charter Manila Lodge under the Grand Lodge of California. One of the original Sojourners, Surgeon Captain Harry Eugene Stafford, 33rd, Chartering Master of Manila Lodge, in 1913 became the first Grand Master of the newly created Grand Lodge of the Philippine Islands.

The Philippine "Sojourners Club" resurfaced in 1907, open to Masons who were not members of local Lodges; within a year it had nearly 200 members from every state and territory and eight foreign countries. Most of the Philippine Sojourners eventually became scattered throughout the United States. A group of these Masonic military officers sojourning in Chicago in 1917 formally organized the "Chicago Sojourners Club."

Additional clubs were quickly formed at Army posts and Naval bases under the name "National Sojourners Club." In 1927, the word "Club" was dropped and we became "National Sojourners, Incorporated" in 1931.

The "Purposes of National Sojourners" affirm our responsibilities to our Brothers, our Fraternity and our Nation. In the absence of local Blue Lodges, Sojourner chapters have in effect, replaced the military Lodges of the 18th, 19th and early 20th centuries. Sojourner actions, similar to those in the Philippines, have been directly responsible for chartering numerous Blue Lodges and other Masonic bodies worldwide.

Whenever regular Masonic Lodges are present, active-duty Sojourners routinely affiliate and energetically participate. Sojourners traditionally sponsor the majority of military personnel petitioning for Masonic membership and stimulate our military Brothers, past and present, to reestablish and strengthen their Masonic ties.

Sojourner efforts are directed toward Americanism and Masonic activities. Patriotic activities include speeches, flag ceremonies, presentations and other actions intended to promote national security and true love of country, with special emphasis on youth. Our Bridge of Light Program strengthens Masonry by involving Sojourners in all Masonic activities, especially in the Blue Lodges.

Our National Headquarters is located at 7942R Cluny Court, Springfield, VA 22153.