

## AHEPA Funeral Ceremony

When a brother passes away it will be the duty of the Chapter President to arrange for an AHEPA funeral ceremony.

On the day assigned, the Brothers will assemble at the deceased, where they will be furnished by the Chapter Secretary or President with a white ribbon with black letters with the inscription AHEPA BROTHER in large letters written lengthwise on the ribbon. Every brother will wear this on his lapel. *Members should also wear their AHEPA pin.*

A dark suit is always preferable with a black tie. At the proper time, the Brothers will gather on either side of the casket with the five Chapter Officers, namely: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Chaplain and Warden, each of them having his jewel. President in the center, Vice-President and Secretary to his left and Chaplain and Warden to his right.

### **The President will begin in this manner:**

“Brothers, we are again called together to mourn the departure of our beloved Brother. To him are due last honors and lasting tribute. This solemn occasion calls upon us to consider the uncertainty of life; let us, therefore, remember to faithfully discharge the great duties which we owe to God, to our neighbor, and to ourselves, for we cannot know when the Lord, our God, will call us into His presence. Brother Secretary, you will read the certificate of our departed Brother.”

At this point the Secretary must have the official certificate rolled up and tied with a black ribbon. The certificate will include the full given name of the Brother, date of birth, date of initiation, Chapter of which he was a member, and the date of his death. The Secretary unties the certificate and reads it in a very solemn manner, after which he re-rolls it and ties it, passes it over to the President. Then the President will pause, and looking towards the body will say:

### **President:**

“Brother \_\_\_\_\_ (addressing the deceased and calling out his name in full) **we will always cherish your memory.**”

Then turning to the family the President will say:

“**To your keeping we entrust the certificate of our departed Brother.**”

### **Chaplain will step forward and say:**

“**Let us pray.**”

At this time all the Brothers will bow their heads, and the Chaplain will read the following prayers.

**Chaplain:**  
First Prayer

“Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. We humbly gather here in Your presence to do You honor. As it has pleased You to take from our presence - one dear to us in our hearts, we beseech You to bless the soul of our departed Brother - inspire our hearts with wisdom from above – that we may glorify You in all our ways. Help us to be influenced by the spirit of brotherly love – so to live that we may enjoy divine blessings. We realize that when our toils on hearth shall have ended – Your light shall constantly attend us – an immortal life shall be ours forever and ever. Amen.”

Second Prayer

“Most glorious God, author of all good, and giver of all mercy – pour down Your blessings on us – strengthen our solemn ties of sincere affection. We acknowledge our dependence upon Your divine Grace – for strength and enlightenment. You art ever in our presence. We pray for the soul of our departed Brother and invoke Your peace and favor upon him. Amen.”

**Vice-President reads:**

“We give thanks to God and the Father of our Lord, Jesus Christ. As AHEPANs, we will always be praying for you. We place your memory at our bosom, there to remain.”

It is necessary to have a small wreath made of laurel, representing olive branches, and which wreath the President takes, and looking into the coffin, says:

**President:**

“This wreath of olive branches is AHEPA’s emblem of peace, peace will you ever enjoy; further, it is the emblem of victory. Victory of the immortality of the soul. To you this victory has come; therefore, now it is fitting for me to place both peace and victory with you. “

The President then lays the wreath in the casket. It would be best for the President or any of the Brothers to say a few words for the departed Brother.

After the ceremony, the AHEPANs leave the room in single file, the President first, to remove their jewels and ribbons.