

NEW Service

FUNERAL CEREMONY

When a Brother passes away it will be the duty of the President to arrange for an Ahepa funeral ceremony. On the day assigned, the Brothers will assemble at the deceased, a dark suit is always preferable.

At the proper time, the Brothers will gather on either side of the casket with the five Officers, namely: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Chaplain and Warden, each of them having his jewel. President in center, Vice-President, 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. Brother Secretary, you will read the certificate of our departed Brother.”

At this point the Secretary must have an official certificate rolled up and tied with a black ribbon in which certificate the full name of the Brother is given, date of birth, date of initiation, Chapter of which he was a member, and date of his death. The Secretary unties the certificate and reads it in a very solemn manner, after which he rerolls 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:

President:

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

It is necessary to have a very 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. All of us join together in honor of your time with us as member of our fraternity, chapter and organization.”

He 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, if the parish Priest allows it.

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