

CEREMONY IN MEMORY OF DEPARTED MEMBERS

On the death of a member, a ritualistic ceremony may take place with the permission of the family of the deceased. This ceremony should be conducted with solemnity and dignity. On the day fixed for the ceremony, the Local Lodge members in a body, will meet at the mortuary. In Order to have good member participation, it is suggested that the ceremony be held during evening hours. Beforehand, the Recording Secretary will see to it that the Emblem of the Order and the Local Lodge Banner are placed at each end of the bier.

Before the members enter, the two Masters/Mistresses of Ceremonies, wearing their Regalia, will enter and stand at both ends of the casket. The other officers wearing their Regalia, led by the Presiding Officer (usually the President or highest ranking officer present) will precede the members into the room and to the front of the bier. The Presiding Officer shall stand by the end of the casket nearest the family and the officers and members will stand in parallel rows by the opposite end of the casket facing the Presiding Officer.

After everyone is in place, they shall proceed with the ceremony. If the Presiding Officer deems it appropriate, he or she may compose a eulogy to deliver following the opening remarks. The composition and delivery of a eulogy may **be** delegated, especially if the family expresses a preference. The ceremony is closed by the Chaplain, or designated substitute, with a prayer and then each participant will individually express their condolences **to** the family starting with the Presiding Officer.

PRESIDING OFFICER *.(Opens the ceremony):*

Brothers and Sisters, we are gathered here to pay our respects to our (Brother/Sister) _____ who no longer can give (his/her) material and spiritual contribution to our beloved Order Sons of Italy in America. We were bound together by the brotherhood of our Order, working side by side for our principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity. We who remain will miss (his/her) devotion: (his/her) counsel; and most of all, we will miss (his/her) comradeship. But more important than anything, our hearts go out in sympathy to (his/her) bereaved loved ones in this time of sorrow and loneliness.