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MEMORIAL NIGHT

ADDRESS OF PRESIDING OFFICER:

Tonight, we come before our altar for a service of remembrance for those who have left us.

Although we know they have gone to a better, fuller life, still there is sorrow in our hearts because their places with us here are now vacant.

Yet, with our sorrow, we breathe a prayer of gratitude, because we have had the privilege of their companionship through the years and have known the inspiration of their presence in our chapter.

For these blessings, we thank the Heavenly Father, who knows our griefs and heartaches, but is ever our Guide, our comfort and our help, and Whom we are come to worship.

" It is only a step from this land to the next,

Just a step betwixt darkness and dawn;

Only a step to the home of the blest,

Where the Friendships of life carry on.

The Tides of the river that flows in between

Have been breasted by loved ones so dear,

Who wait for us there in that harbor so fair,

Where perfect love casteth out fear.

Life does not end when the pulse-bearing is stilled,

The semblance is only withdrawn,

But with missions fulfill every heart shall be thrilled

And Life's friendships will still carry on.

We shall meet in the mansions of promise,

Where a dear loving Savior has gone,

And ties severed here will be sacred and dear

In the Home where true Friendships live on."

PRAYER

Holy and Merciful Father, we humbly bow before

Thee in these sacred moments to ask Thy Blessing upon this service.

Wilt thou bring peace to those whose hearts are sad and give us all the Faith to believe that this going away is but the beginning of life and a new and perfect day. May the memories of the loved ones gone before be a guiding star directing our lives down the paths of time to that day when we, too, shall open the door which leads to the dawn of a glorious immortality. All this we ask in Thy Holy Name. " AMEN "