

I GO MY WAY
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Hamilton Chapter, No. 275,
Hamilton, Missouri.

Retiring Matron,-

I go my way because the year is drawing to a close,
And what the future holds for us, is something no one knows;
But I can look into the past and view the work I've done,
And I know best where I have failed; and you know if I've won;
And as I close the door and say "Goodbye" to each of you,
I wonder if you think of me as friends should always do;
I wonder if you think that I have been true to my task;
If you can say just this of me, it will be all I ask.

The work of another year in our Chapter has come to a close, and we find ourselves facing the new year which is before us. In reviewing the past, I find myself indebted to so many who have so kindly helped me during the year. As members of the Chapter, you have done everything in your power to make this year a pleasant one, and I am going to miss the close associations which I have enjoyed with you. During this year of service, I have gained many things. It has given me a better understanding of human nature, and it has given me many priceless friendships, and many happy memories which will strengthen as time goes on. (I do not feel that I have done great things, but I have tried to do the essential things which would bring success to our Order, and for your help in trying to do this, I am very thankful.

To my officers,- No one can understand your worth except those who have stood in the east and worked with you. No words of mine can possibly express to you my appreciation for your very efficient service. Any success which may be mine, I gladly share with you, for a Worthy Matron can do very little without a capable corps of officers, and it has been my privilege to enjoy the companionship of just such officers, and for this I am truly grateful.

I can never express to you the joy I have found as I walked with you,
I can never expect to find the friends who could prove to be more true;
And as we now face another year, and it's time that I go on my way,
I know that the service you have given will brighten for me each day.

To other members and committees,- To those who have not served as officers, may I say that you have been wonderful for your faithful attendance, for your willingness to serve on committees, and for substituting when needed. Your help has been appreciated more than I can tell. We would not have any inspiration to work and grow if it were not for the faithful ones on the side lines, and I want you to feel that your attendance has done much to make not only my year, but every other Worthy Matron's year a success. We hope you will continue to be faithful, for your presence will always be an incentive to the officers to do better work, and give greater service.

You may not think you are doing much when you come and sit on the side,
But the smile of approval on your face does much for the one who has tried;
And each little help that you may give, be it either great or small,
Means so much to the one in the East, who knows you will answer her call.

Thanks for Jewel,- I humbly accept this token of your friendship in recognition of my year of service. I shall always wear it with pride and joy. Pride because it has been given to me by my Chapter, and joy for the privilege of serving you. I appreciate the help which this Chapter as a whole has given me. We have walked the fraternal road together, and you have been willing and ready to aid me in every way. I trust that your faith in me has been rewarded, and that the luster of this Jewel will never be dimmed by any act of mine. I hope that by my service through the year, I may have helped someone to catch the inspiration of Charity, Truth, and Lovingkindness so that

we may continue to work together in the interest of our Chapter, and for the honor, and the good of our beloved Order.

Never have I received a gift more lovely,
Never have I found my friends more true;
Never has a person been more grateful,
Than I am, as I receive this from you.

Thanks for gift,- I want to thank you, not only for this gift, but for the words which have made it even more beautiful. You have done so many lovely things for me during my year of service, and I not only appreciate this gift because of it's value, but for the love and the friendship which I feel sure has prompted the giving. It will bring to me many happy memories, and I shall always treasure it among my most prized possessions.

To the Incoming Worthy Matron,- Your friendship has meant much to me during the past year. I shall follow the work of your year with interest, and may the year hold for you the fulfillment of your dearest hopes which will bring only happiness to you. I feel sure you will find every member ready and willing to help you, and at the close of the year you will be much richer because of the experience you have enjoyed during your year of service. I pledge to you my support, and trust that we may work together in the interest of our Chapter, and for the prosperity of our Order.

This year will be yours to rejoice with friends you meet along the way,
And as we walk along with you, may friendships strengthen every day;
The way will not seem very long, for we'll be there to help you through,
If rough the road, we'll gladly share; if smooth, we will rejoice with you.

Now I have reached the end of the trail. It has been a happy highway, and a wonderful experience. The record of the past year lies before you. I trust that you will give it just consideration.

I hope some life has been made brighter, just by some words of mine,
I hope some burden has been made lighter, by some lights that shine;
I hope that I have never failed you, in sowing kindly deeds,
I hope the service I have given, will help to meet your needs;
And as I go my way in closing, and face the setting sun,
Judge me for what I've tried to do, and not for what I've done.

During following song, gifts or flowers may be presented to officers.

Tune,- Aunt Dinah's Quilting Party.

Let me say again I thank you
For your service good and true,
For your kindness through my year as Matron,
I now give a gift to you;
I now give a gift to you, I now give a gift to you,
For your kindness through my year as Matron,
I now give a gift to you.

May each year bring much joy to you,
May your friends be always true,
And because you have been faithful to me,
I now give a gift to you;
I now give a gift to you, I now give a gift to you
Just because you have been faithful to me,
I now give a gift to you.

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