

THE CLOSING DOOR
To Honor Retiring Matron and Patron
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By Pearle Seitter, Past Matron,
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Hamilton, Missouri.

Lights are lowered.

The Star points, Conductress, Associate Conductress, Secretary, Marshal, Treasurer, and Chaplain form semicircle around Altar, each with lighted candle. The Associate Matron and Associate Patron approach the East by passing on south and north of labyrinth, respectively. They bow to retiring Matron and Patron, and escort them to position between Altar and dais facing west, with Matron and Patron standing between Associate Matron and Patron. When in position, Jewels are presented as follows:

For presenting Jewel to retiring Matron:

It is my happy privilege at this time to bring you a few words of grateful appreciation from the members of this Chapter. Our associations together through the years have been happy ones, and the fellowship which we have enjoyed has added beauty to the Order we love. You have served our Order well. The task has been yours to tend for awhile, and soon the sacred flame which you have kept burning will be replenished by other hands, and through your efforts they will catch a better vision of that beautiful Star in the East.

Happiness is but the echo of some service which we have previously sent out. May the kindness and consideration which you have shown the past year as Worthy Matron reflect a great joy in your life that will last for years to come. We have shared with you in delightful fellowship, and as the days come and go, may you often look back to the untold pleasures which have made this year one of the happiest of your life. ~~As~~ As a reminder of our gratitude, we present to you this gift. Not to repay you for your service, for it could not be done; but to remind you of the love you have given, and the love we have tried to give in return.)

From out of our heart's treasures comes this little gift to you,
For each service that is given, just reward is always due;
May each year that is before you as the days go passing by,
Bring you only helpful showers with some rainbows in the sky;
May this gift help you to cherish all our love which is so true,
With best wishes for the future, as we share each joy with you.

Boutonniere may be presented to retiring Patron as follows:

used (It is my happy privilege to express to you the thanks of the Chapter for the duties which you have so faithfully performed the past year. We have enjoyed the delightful fellowship and loyalty to the tasks which we have been able to share. To be numbered among those who have occupied the office of Worthy Patron is an honor and a lasting reminder of service well done. It is my pleasure to present to you this little token of our appreciation for your service so nobly done. Our best wishes are with you for future success and happiness.)

Will you place this little rosebud in the memory of your heart,
That the message which it carries from you never will depart;
For to you it brings a "Thank you" from the Chapter members here,
And it brings the best of wishes too, for every coming year.

After gifts are presented, soloist sings:

Tune: "Now the Day is Over".

Now your year is over,
And it's service through,
May God's many blessings
Each day follow you.

May you skies be cloudless
And no storms appear,
May your days be brightened
By those you hold dear.

As you face new duties
And to them resign,
May our Star before you,
On your pathway shine.

When the evening shadows
Creep in from afar,
May sweet memories linger
Of our Eastern Star.

At close of song, Associate Matron and Associate Patron escort retiring Matron and Patron around inside of semicircle, the Associate Patron and retiring Matron going to right, and the Associate Matron and retiring Patron going to left. Associate Matron and Patron extinguish candles of officers in passing. Esther's candle is left burning. As retiring officers meet in front of her station, Esther speaks as follows:

There remains one light in the Heavens
To light your way each day,
The Star that shone over the manger
Still shines for you on your way;
This Star of the East will lead you
The rest of your journey through,
It will daily lead you onward,
And keep you ever true.

For your task is not yet finished,
Your work is not yet done,
You must keep right on in the service
'Till the race of life is run;
Your reward will be much greater,
If you're faithful in the least,
And our Star will shine forever
As it leads you from the East.

Esther with lighted candle leads the way as retiring Matron and Patron are escorted from the Chapter room.

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