

Several months ago, I promised that I would share with all the 'Retiring of the Flag' ceremony that is used in our Grand Jurisdiction. It is out of the Washington Monitor (Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free & Accepted Masons of Washington). The words have been changed to fit OES meetings. It is done AFTER the meeting is closed and before the Flag is RETURNED.

Sisters and Brothers, in the presence of our holy Bible and under the protecting folds of the Flag of Our Country, we have worked, as Eastern Star members, for the good of humanity. As the Flag is returned, let us stand at salute in tribute to the emblem of the Nation that guarantees to its citizens the rights of free assembly, free speech, free worship and the rights of free men and women and Eastern Star Members. Brother AP (or Marshal) return the flag.

And the one that my husband (when WP & as a request of myself at my Honor Nights) does AFTER Chapter is closed and the flag has been returned ...

"CLOSING CHARGE"

Sisters and Brothers: We are now about to quit this sacred retreat of friendship and virtue, to mingle again with the outer world. Amid its concerns and employments, forget not the duties which you have heard so frequently inculcated, and so forcefully recommended in this Chapter. Be diligent, prudent, temperate, discreet. Remember that at this altar you promised to befriend and relieve every Sister and Brother who shall need your assistance. You have been enjoined to remind a Sister or Brother in the most friendly manner of their faults, to endeavor to aid their reformation, and to defend their character. These generous principles extend further, for every human being has a claim upon your kind offices. Do good unto all. Finally, my Sisters and Brothers, be ye all of one mind; live in peace; and may the God of Love and Peace delight to dwell with you and bless you.

I especially enjoy the latter 'charge' as hubby, Ted, goes down to the Altar and speaks out to the membership. Of course, he recites from memory. This is a parting charge every member should leave with so as to remind them how they should conduct themselves in the outer world (outside the Lodge or Chapter) until they meet again.

Enies