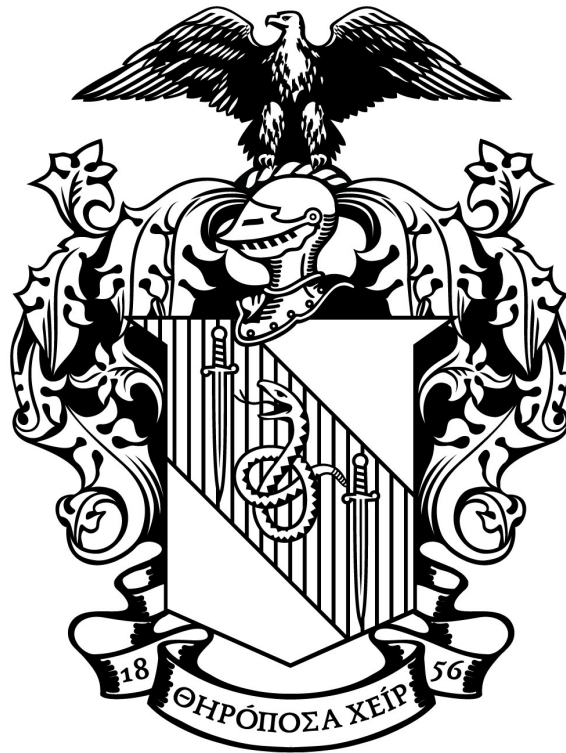


# Public Ceremonies



PUBLISHED BY:

**THE GRAND CHAPTER,  
THETA CHI FRATERNITY, INC.**

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*Special Edition with COVID-19 accommodations  
For use during 2020/2021 academic year only*

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## FOREWORD AND HISTORY OF THE PUBLIC CEREMONIES

*The Ritual of Theta Chi Fraternity* has been a matter of evolution. Regrettably, it is impossible to trace all of the work that has been done on the Ritual so as to give full credit to all participating members.

The first known written copy of the Ritual appears in a small booklet with leather binding. It is kept in a bank safe deposit vault along with the original Constitution and other priceless archives of the Fraternity. This copy, written in longhand, bears the date "April 1863," and contains a notation to the effect that it was presented to Alpha Chapter "by the members from New York State." Since the handwriting on the Ritual paper is the same as that appearing on the flyleaf covering the presentation, it is assumed that it was copied from earlier existing copies, or produced from memory.

In 1995, the Ritual was divided into two distinct parts as separate publications—the Ritual, containing those ceremonies which only initiated members may view, and the Public Ceremonies, containing the following: Pledging Ceremony, Big Brother Ceremony, Alumni Ceremony, Deceased Brother Ceremony and Memorial Ceremony. All Public Ceremonies may be viewed by non-members.

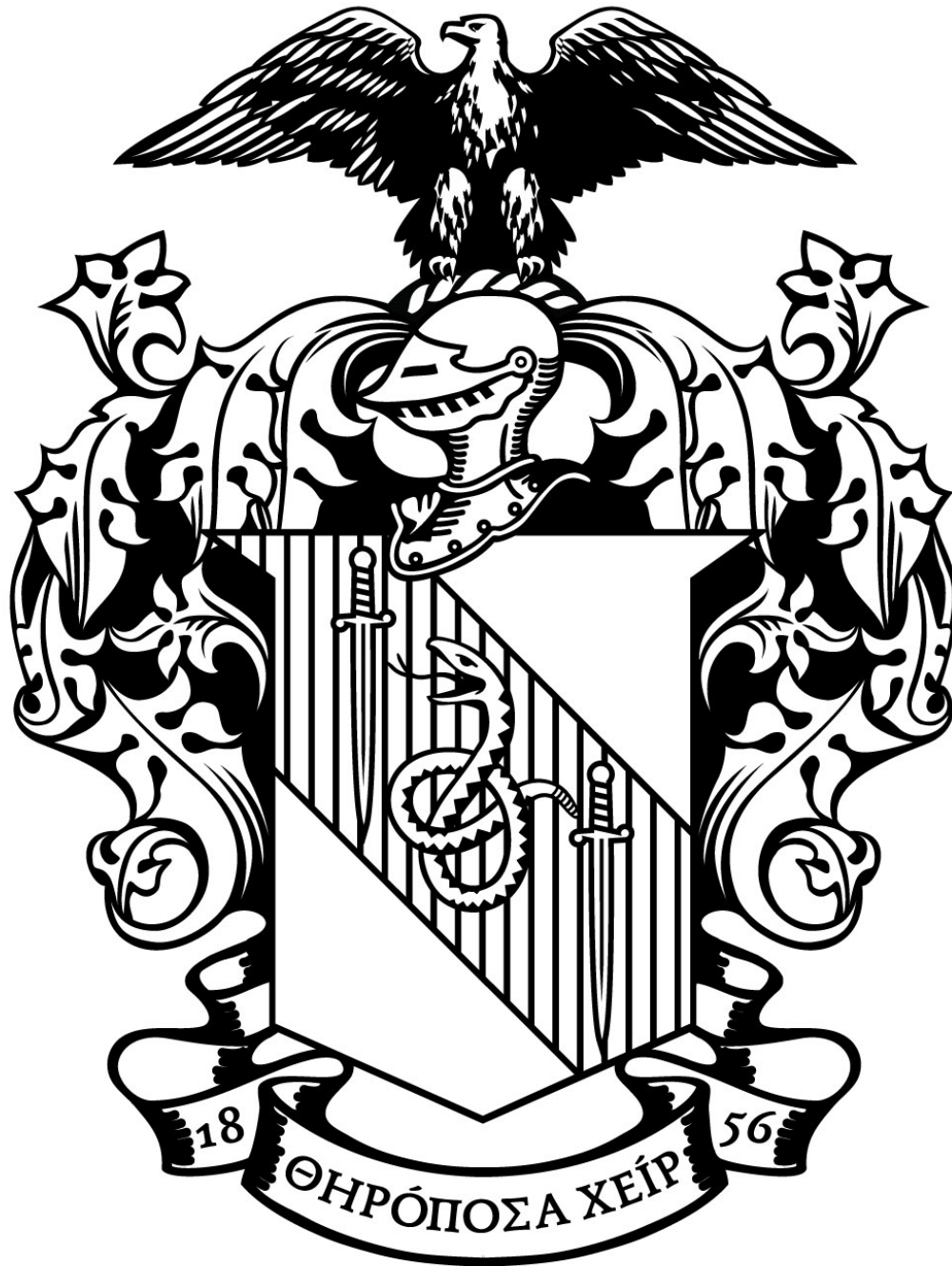
The 1995 edition of the Ritual was prepared by a committee appointed by the Grand Chapter in 1991. The Big Brother Ceremony made its debut as part of the 1995 edition of the Public Ceremonies. The Ceremony for a Deceased Brother was also updated and the Memorial Ceremony underwent an extensive revision. The Ritual Committee consisted of Fr. Philip T. Bowers (Alpha Delta/Purdue) and Danny P. Kaiser (Alpha Mu/Iowa State), Chairs, Allan J. Calarco (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg), Joseph R. D'Amore, Jr. (Eta Pi/East Stroudsburg), Fulton S. Hamilton (Alpha Phi/Alabama), and James J. Moylan (Gamma Lambda/Denver).

The 2011 edition of the Public Ceremonies includes improvements in stage directions and adds clarifications to prevent conflicts with the Ritual, but only minor language changes have been made to the ceremonies themselves.

The 2013 edition of the Public Ceremonies adds the Vice President of Health and Safety to the Pledging Ceremony.

The 2016 edition of the Public Ceremonies adds the Resolute Man Ceremony. The members who assisted in the creation of the ceremony include: Dustin Bartley (Gamma Phi/Nebraska Wesleyan), Darick Brown (Eta Gamma/Morehead State), Anthony Dominguez (Delta Phi/North Texas), Ben Hill (Eta Kappa/James Madison), and Gary Simpson (Zeta Rho/Kentucky).

## COAT OF ARMS OF THETA CHI FRATERNITY



The description of the Coat of Arms of Theta Chi Fraternity in Heraldic phraseology, is as follows: Or, on bended gules, a nowed serpent between two swords, points downward, palewise all the first. On an esquires helmet the Crest, an eagle displayed Or.

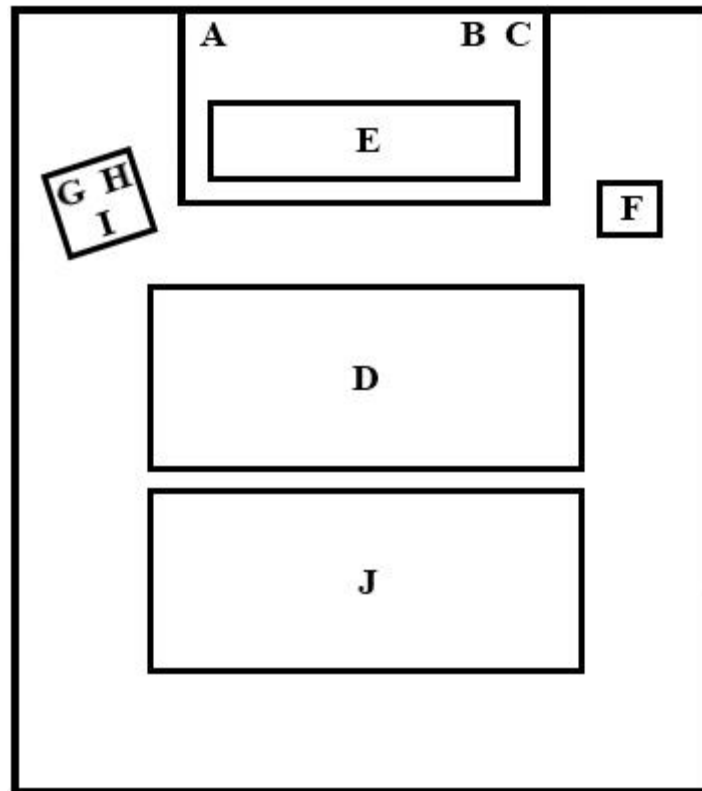
Motto: ΘΗΡΌΠΟΣΑ ΧΕΪΡ

## SUGGESTED ROOM LAYOUT

- A. United States flag (Canadian flag in Canada)
- B. Canadian flag (United States flag in Canada)
- C. Theta Chi Fraternity flag
- D. Standing area for candidates
- E. Head table
- F. Lectern

*Table with:*

- G. Portrait of Frederick Norton Freeman
  - H. Portrait of Arthur Chase
  - I. Bible (and/or other religious texts)
- J. Area for guest seating



All seating and room/gathering capacity limits must accommodate and conform to federal, state, local, and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. In addition, all ceremony participants are to follow all federal, state, local laws.

## **Directions for the Pledging Ceremony**

The Pledging Ceremony is purposely kept brief and simple so that it will not detract from the formal ritualistic works associated with initiation and the conduct of meetings. It may be used in the presence of the chapter for one or more candidates. None of the ritualistic ceremonies or terminology of the Ritual should be revealed. Non-member guests, such as parents, may attend this ceremony. Appropriate attire for brothers and candidates is coat and tie.

### Personnel required:

The speaking roles are: President, Vice President of Health and Safety, Secretary, Marshal, Chaplain, Recruitment Chairman and Chapter Adviser. Be sure to provide advance notice to your chapter adviser so that he may be in attendance!

### Properties required:

- Theta Chi flag
- Portrait of Frederick Norton Freeman
- Portrait of Arthur Chase
- United States flag
- Canadian flag
- Candidate emblems, one for each candidate
- Bible, opened to Genesis 1:1
- Lectern
- Head table and four chairs
- Adequate seating for brothers, candidates, and guests
- Gavel

### Room arrangement:

See Suggested Room Layout on Page 5.

### General Preparations:

An asterisk (\*) denotes one rap of the gavel.

The Secretary will need a list of candidates' names, in alphabetical order, with hometown, and state or province.

The candidates should be assembled in an adjoining room and be assembled to enter in alphabetical order by last name.

If there are a large number of candidates, additional brothers may be designated to assist with the candidate emblems.

All seating and room/gathering capacity limits must accommodate and conform to federal, state, local, and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. All those in attendance for ceremonies are expected to wear a mask and comply with all federal, state, and local laws. Any member or guest exhibiting symptoms of or having tested positive for COVID-19 shall not attend the ceremony until cleared, with documentation, by an appropriate physician.

## Pledging Ceremony

PRESIDENT — \* *(Pause while meeting comes to order.)* Brother Recruitment Chairman, is all in readiness for the Pledging Ceremony?

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN — Yes, the candidates are assembled and await further instruction.

PRESIDENT — *(To assembled guests, if any. Omit if no guests are present.)*

I welcome our guests to this ceremony by which we formalize the commitment between our chapter and our candidates for membership. We are pleased that you are here to witness this special event. As these men begin their journey with us, we will ask them to state their commitment, we will declare our support for them and we will celebrate their decision to join us.

*(Pause.)*

Brother Recruitment Chairman, please escort the candidates into the room.

*(Recruitment Chairman retires to bring the candidates into the meeting room, assembled in alphabetical order by last name, facing the head table. More than one line may be used depending on the number of candidates. Candidates will remain standing throughout the ceremony. Appropriate social distancing should be maintained at all times.)*

RECRUITMENT CHAIRMAN — *(Addressing the candidates.)*

Candidates, I am pleased to present Brother \_\_\_\_\_, President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity.

PRESIDENT — *(Addressing the candidates.)*

We welcome you to this moment in the history of Theta Chi Fraternity and express our happiness that, on this day, you have chosen to follow in our footsteps. It is a lifetime journey on which you embark, but let me assure you that you will not walk alone, nor will you walk in darkness. You will walk with all the men of Theta Chi Fraternity who believe in and exemplify the values of our brotherhood.

We are a brotherhood bound together by a sincere desire to grow in excellence in every aspect of our lives. The environment of this excellence is a personal development of honor and integrity. It is a brotherhood that cares for its members. We will call on you to give well of your talents and gifts, and we expect you to call us to that same challenge. In this we live our brotherhood's motto of "The Helping Hand."

This is a day to rejoice, for once again we begin the process of adding new strength to our membership. Brother Secretary, please call the roll of the men who first offered their pledge to our Fraternity and those who come before us today.

SECRETARY — *(reading slowly and deliberately.)*

Frederick Norton Freeman, Claremont, New Hampshire, April 10, 1856;  
Arthur Chase, Bellows Falls, Vermont, April 10, 1856;  
Edward Bancroft Williston, Norwich, Vermont, April 11, 1856;  
Lorenzo Potter, Elkhorn, Wisconsin, April 11, 1856.

These were our first brothers. On this day, those who will follow are asked to take one step forward as his name is called.

*(The Secretary reads the list of candidates, including their full name and hometown.)*

PRESIDENT — Gentlemen, there are purposes to this Fraternity in which you seek membership. Many can be found in our Creed. Listen carefully as my brothers join me in reciting the Creed of Theta Chi.

\* \* \*

*(Pause, then lead recitation of the Creed of Theta Chi.)*

ALL BROTHERS — I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance and Tolerance, extols virtue, exacts harmony and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow man.

PRESIDENT — *(Pause.)*

Thank you, brothers.

*(Pause, then address candidates.)*

Candidates, I understand that each of you have expressed your desire to join Theta Chi Fraternity at \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name of institution)* If so, answer, "I have."

CANDIDATE(S) — I have.



PRESIDENT — The use of the term “pledge,” as derived from the word, means a promise or oath. You will now be asked to make a solemn pledge as to your desire to join Theta Chi Fraternity and to your future conduct as a pledged candidate. I can assure you that this will not restrain you in any manner from serving your alma mater loyally, or living as a valued citizen and honorable gentleman. With this assurance, are you willing to make this pledge? If so, answer, “I am.”

CANDIDATES — I am.

PRESIDENT — The Chaplain will now administer the pledge.

CHAPLAIN — For your understanding, I will first recite the pledge in full.

**I, (name in full), will accept my candidate emblem of Theta Chi Fraternity, and all those things, consistent with honor, for which it stands. I agree to wear it at all appropriate times until such time as I may be allowed to wear the Badge of Theta Chi. I agree to abide by all of the rules of this Fraternity in the same manner as a member; to conduct myself at all times as a gentleman, and to honor my country, my alma mater and this Fraternity.**

Candidate(s), please repeat after me:

**I, (name in full), / will accept my candidate emblem / of Theta Chi Fraternity, / and all those things, / consistent with honor, / for which it stands. / I agree to wear it at all appropriate times / until such time / as I may be allowed / to wear the Badge of Theta Chi. / I agree to abide by / all of the rules of this Fraternity / in the same manner as a member; / to conduct myself / at all times as a gentleman, / and to honor my country, my alma mater and this Fraternity.**

ALL BROTHERS — We are witnesses to this, your solemn pledge.

PRESIDENT — In consideration of the solemn pledge you have made, it is my pleasure and privilege as President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, duly constituted under the Constitution and Bylaws of our International Fraternity, to accept your pledge to honor Theta Chi Fraternity. Therefore, in the name of this chapter and by the virtue of my authority as chapter President, I hereby present you with your candidate emblem as a symbol of your acceptance as a pledged candidate of Theta Chi.

The candidate emblem is worn over the heart in the same location as is the Badge of Theta Chi. The candidate emblem should be worn only at appropriate times and on an appropriate shirt, sweater or more formal garment. Unlike our Badge, the candidate emblem may be worn on the lapel of a suit coat or blazer.

*(The President demonstrates the pinning of the candidate emblem while each candidate pins the emblem on his shirt, sweater, or lapel.)*

PRESIDENT — \* Please be seated. *(pause.)*

Full membership in Theta Chi is for life. It is therefore customary that alumni participate in many of our activities by contributing their experience, talents and knowledge. Our Chapter Advisory Board will consult with us in many of our chapter affairs. Brother \_\_\_\_\_, you will address our candidates.

*(This following section should be presented by the Chapter Adviser. If this is not possible, another adviser or alumnus may do so.)*

CHAPTER ADVISER — During your time as a candidate for membership, and later as an initiated member of our Fraternity, much will be expected of you. I charge you to be cognizant of your obligation to your alma mater, upon which this Fraternity depends. Be diligent in your studies that you may bring honor to yourself and to your chapter. Learn about our Fraternity and the principles for which it stands. The brothers of Theta Chi Fraternity are here to teach, guide and assist you. Call upon them. Their actions will demonstrate to you the true meaning of brotherhood.

PRESIDENT — It is also incumbent upon us all to protect one another from harm, be it by intention or coincidence. Brothers and candidates, please give your attention to the Vice President of Health and Safety.

VICE PRESIDENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY — I would charge you to commit to the continued welfare, health and safety of our brothers and friends, ensuring that we protect each other from anything that would bring us harm. The enemies of this Fraternity are not our rivals in the halls of academia or on the fields of competition; rather, they are the influences, attitudes and actions that may endanger our brothers, our Fraternity and our friends. We must stand guard against those who seek to abuse our hospitality. We must also remain watchful of our brothers who fail to understand or meet their obligation to protect themselves and those around them.

PRESIDENT — We must also guard against any person who acts in direct contradiction to Theta Chi Fraternity's traditions and ideals by hazing, demeaning or purposefully creating harm or discomfort toward another. Any who purposefully engage in such activities are not worthy of association with our Fraternity. *(Pause.)* Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer. \*\*\*

CHAPLAIN — Gracious and loving God, we ask Your blessing on our candidates, their families and our brotherhood. Guide us on this journey we have begun together. Grant us vision and hope, patience and accountability, and give us insight to the tradition of brother helping brother in mind and heart and spirit. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

PRESIDENT — You are now pledged candidates of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity. The success or failure of the goals of this chapter depends upon the effort and conduct of each of us. You may rest assured that the Helping Hand of Theta Chi will always be available to you. Welcome and congratulations to each of you.

"There is a destiny that makes us brothers. None goes his way alone. All that we send into the lives of others comes back into our own."

As President of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity and on behalf of all its members, I wish to acknowledge and thank our brothers, candidates and guests for witnessing this ceremony. Each candidate made choices that brought him to this campus and to this Fraternity. The initiated members of this chapter made the same choices. I wish to assure those assembled here today that it is our avowed purpose to enhance the dignity of those choices.

*(Pause.)*

"Alma Mater First and Theta Chi for Alma Mater."

This concludes the work of the Pledging Ceremony. Please join me in welcoming our candidates. \*

*Finis, Pledging Ceremony*

*(If prepared to do so, the chapter may proceed with the Big Brother Ceremony at this point.)*

## Directions for the Big Brother Ceremony

The Big Brother Ceremony is purposely kept brief and simple so that it will not detract from the formal ritualistic works associated with initiation and the conduct of meetings. It may be used in the presence of the chapter for one or more candidates. None of the ritualistic ceremonies or terminology of the Ritual should be revealed. Non-member guests, such as parents, may attend this ceremony. Appropriate attire for brothers and candidates is coat and tie.

If Big Brothers have been selected prior to the Pledging Ceremony, it is recommended that the Big Brother Ceremony immediately follow the Pledging Ceremony.

Some chapters use the terms "Pledging Father" and "Pledge Son" rather than "Big Brother" and "Little Brother." This is acceptable. The terminology in the ceremony may be changed to reflect that preference.

The expectations of the role and responsibilities of the Big Brother should be explained, discussed and agreed upon by the chapter prior to conducting this ceremony.

### Personnel required:

The speaking roles are: President, Marshal and Chaplain.

The chapter will need to assign a Big Brother to each candidate.

### Properties required:

- Theta Chi flag
- Portrait of Frederick Norton Freeman
- Portrait of Arthur Chase
- United States flag
- Canadian flag
- Bible, opened to Genesis 1:1
- Lectern
- Head table and four chairs
- Adequate seating for brothers, candidates, Big Brothers and guests
- Gavel

### Room arrangement:

See Suggested Room Layout on Page 5.

### General Preparations:

An asterisk (\*) denotes one rap of the gavel.

All seating and room/gathering capacity limits must accommodate and conform to federal, state, local, and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. All those in attendance for ceremonies are expected to wear a mask and comply with all federal, state, and local laws. Any member or guest exhibiting symptoms of or having tested positive for COVID-19 shall not attend the ceremony until cleared, with documentation, by an appropriate physician.

## Big Brother Ceremony

PRESIDENT — \* *(Pause while meeting comes to order.)* Our purpose in this assembly is to establish a formal relationship between each candidate of the Fraternity and one initiated brother of the chapter who will serve as his Big Brother.

*(If this ceremony is not being conducted immediately after the Pledging Ceremony, the candidates are now conducted by the Marshal to the front of the room in a single line facing the head table, maintaining appropriate social distancing. The Marshal then addresses them as a group.)*

MARSHAL — Candidates of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, as a part of the process by which you journey toward membership in Theta Chi Fraternity, it is proper for one of our initiated brothers to serve each of you as your individual guide, mentor, and role model. This is a responsibility accepted willingly and openly by each Big Brother.

Each Big Brother will now come forward and stand behind his Little Brother.

*(Big Brothers come forward. Each stands immediately behind his Little Brother, facing the head table, and maintaining appropriate social distancing. Candidates continue to face the head table.)*

MARSHAL — Big Brothers, as has been our tradition, the responsibilities of a Big Brother are to serve as a guide, mentor, and role model to a Little Brother. Is this an obligation you accept freely and willingly, recognizing that your influence will affect not only your Little Brother, but the future of our chapter and Theta Chi Fraternity? If so, answer, "I accept."

BIG BROTHER CANDIDATES — I accept.

MARSHAL — Candidates, turn and face your Big Brother.

*(Pause until each candidate has turned.)*

MARSHAL — Big Brothers, the time has come to formalize your commitment to your Little Brother. This is done through a statement of obligation, spoken directly to your Little Brother and witnessed by this assembly. The Chaplain will administer this statement of obligation.

CHAPLAIN — For your understanding, I will first recite the statement of obligation in full.

I, (your name in full), do solemnly accept the honor and responsibility of becoming Big Brother to (name of your Little Brother). It will be my duty to teach my Little Brother the meaning of Theta Chi Fraternity through my personal actions and guidance. I will also assist my Little Brother in fulfilling his academic and Fraternity responsibilities. I will allow no harm, mental or physical, to be inflicted upon my Little Brother by anyone, including a member of this Fraternity. I shall be a positive role model, and by example, show him the path to brotherhood in Theta Chi Fraternity.

Big Brothers, please repeat after me:

I, (your name in full), / do solemnly accept / the honor and responsibility / of becoming Big Brother to (name of your Little Brother). / It will be my duty to teach my Little Brother / the meaning of Theta Chi Fraternity / through my personal actions and guidance. / I will also assist my Little Brother / in fulfilling his academic and Fraternity responsibilities. / I will allow no harm, / mental or physical, / to be inflicted upon my Little Brother / by anyone, including a member of this Fraternity. / I shall be a positive role model, / and by example, / show him the path to brotherhood/ in Theta Chi Fraternity.

ALL OTHER BROTHERS — We are witnesses to this, your statement of obligation.

MARSHAL — The bonds between Big Brothers often continue long beyond the period of pledgeship. The bond that links a true family is not one of blood, but one of honor, commitment, joy, and respect in each other's lives. This, too, is emblematic of our lifelong brotherhood.

PRESIDENT — Brothers, this ceremony has celebrated our past while embracing Theta Chi Fraternity's customs, rituals and beliefs. We have previously obligated ourselves to treat these candidates with dignity and respect, and to provide an opportunity for trusting relationships to develop. We expect initiated members to take responsibility for any behavior that affects these individuals. We further commit ourselves to the success of these candidates, to promote community involvement and to encourage academic excellence. My brothers, if you accept this call to commitment to these candidates, please state, "I do."

ALL BROTHERS — I do.

PRESIDENT — Brother Chaplain, you will lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN—Almighty God, bless the newly created bonds between our Little and Big Brothers. Grant to our Big Brothers good judgment to guide our Little Brothers on the first stage of their journey to the brotherhood of Theta Chi. Grant to our Little Brothers receptive minds and hearts so that they may learn the precepts and traditions of our Fraternity. We ask this in Your name. Amen.

PRESIDENT—This concludes the work of the Big Brother Ceremony. \*

*Finis, Big Brother Ceremony*

*(At this point a suitable opportunity presents itself for Big and Little Brothers to discuss mutual expectations.)*

## Directions for the Resolute Man Ceremony

The Resolute Man Ceremony is purposely kept brief and simple so that it will not detract from the formal ritualistic works associated with initiation and conduct of meetings. It may be used in the presence of the Chapter for one or more Resolute Man candidates. None of the ritualistic ceremonies or terminology of the Private Ritual should be revealed. Non-member guests, such as parents, may attend this Ceremony. Appropriate attire for Brothers and Resolute Man Candidates is coat and tie.

### SUGGESTED ROOM LAYOUT

- A. United States flag (Canadian flag in Canada)
- B. Canadian flag (United States flag in Canada)
- C. Theta Chi Fraternity flag
- D. Standing area for candidates
- E. Head table
- F. Lectern

*Table with:*

- G. Portrait of Frederick Norton Freeman
- H. Portrait of Arthur Chase
- I. Bible (and/or other religious texts)

- J. Area for guest seating

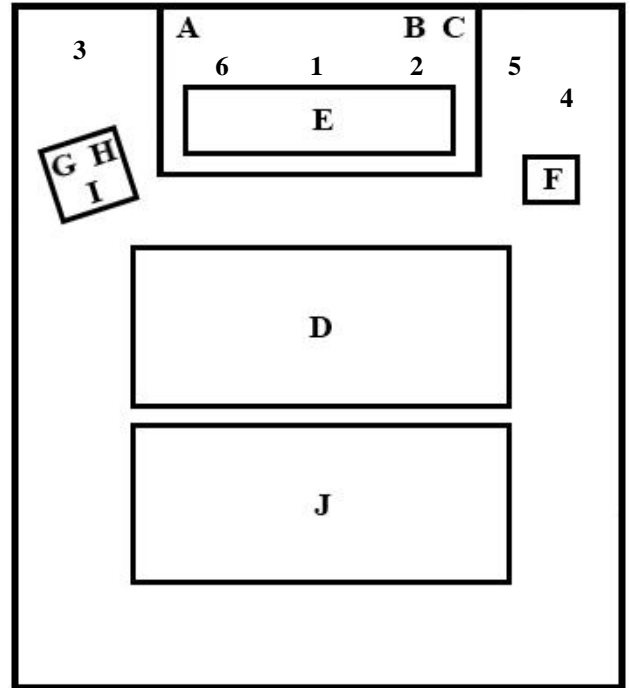
*Roles:*

1. President
2. Secretary
3. Marshal
4. Chaplain
5. Historian
6. Alumnus brother
  - a. During the entire Ceremony, the Brothers should sit in the audience among non-member guests.
  - b. The Resolute Man candidates should be assembled in an adjoining room and be assembled to enter in alphabetical order by last name.

*Properties required:*

- Resolute Man Guards, 1 for each Resolute Man
- Gavel

All seating and room/gathering capacity limits must accommodate and conform to federal, state, local, and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. All those in attendance for ceremonies are expected to wear a mask and comply with all federal, state, and local laws. Any member or guest exhibiting symptoms of or having tested positive for COVID-19 shall not attend the ceremony until cleared, with documentation, by an appropriate physician.





## Resolute Man Ceremony

PRESIDENT — \* *(Pause while meeting comes to order.)* Brother Marshal, is all in readiness for the Resolute Man Ceremony?

MARSHAL — Yes, the candidates are assembled and await further instruction.

PRESIDENT — *(To assembled guests, if any. Omit if no guests are present.)*

Brothers *(and guests)*, we are gathered here today to bestow upon our Brother(s) one of the highest distinctions a member can achieve. Bestowing the title of Resolute Man is an important and serious matter. It is the objective toward which this brother has *(these brothers have)* been working. It is the result of the efforts of his *(their)* family, his *(their)* alma mater, his *(their)* chapter brothers, advisers, and mentors. It is an occasion for pride and for joy, but, it is also a time for serious contemplation. *(Pause.)*

Brother Marshal, please conduct the candidates before the altar.

*(Marshal conducts the candidates from outside staging area to the standing area near altar, maintaining appropriate social distancing. Candidates will remain standing.)*

When we were initiated into our beloved Fraternity, we were given the tremendous honor and responsibility of membership in a lifelong brotherhood. We have been challenged as to the earnestness of our commitment to our traditions and our ideals as well as our efforts to better ourselves, our brothers, and our fellow man.

PRESIDENT — *(Still Standing.)* Brother Marshal, has this brother *(have these brothers)* achieved the requirements to become a Theta Chi Pledge?

MARSHAL — *(Rises, remains at his station.)* He is *(They are)* of honorable and moral character, received a formal invitation to join and has *(have)* agreed to live fully by Theta Chi Fraternity's Pledge Honor Code. *(Sit.)*

PRESIDENT — *(Still Standing.)* Has this candidate *(Have these candidates)* met the requirements to become an initiated member *(initiated members)* of Theta Chi Fraternity?

MARSHAL — *(Rises, remains at his station)* He has *(They have)* completed all required educational sessions, obtained a vote of approval by the initiated members of his *(their)* active chapter, signed the Theta Chi Fraternity Collegian Honor Code, and has *(have)* been legally initiated by \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter. *(Sit.)*

ALUMNUS — (*Rises. Remains standing.*) Brother President, as an alumnus of the \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter, I ask you, has this member (*have these members*), now nearing the end of his (*their*) journey toward earning the title of Resolute Man, truly developed teamwork and leadership skills, committed to our maxim of *Alma Mater First and Theta Chi for Alma Mater*, become socially competent, prepared himself (*themselves*) for life after graduation, and proven himself (*themselves*) to be a Theta Chi for Life by demonstrating his (*their*) willingness and ability to live and act in accordance with the ideals of Theta Chi, as exemplified by our Ritual and Creed?

SECRETARY — (*Rises, remains at his station.*) His application has (*Their applications have*) been inspected by the Chief Executive Officer of Theta Chi Fraternity and after careful investigation and examination has (*have*) been recommended to obtain the recognition as a Resolute Man. (*Sit.*)

ALUMNUS — (*Still Standing.*) I believe this distinction is a responsibility as well as an honor, and I respectfully ask that this candidate be further informed of the character and responsibilities of a Resolute Man before continuing further. (*sits*)

PRESIDENT — Thank you, brother. I agree with your suggestion that none are more qualified to impart this than our alumni (*and those who wear the guard of The Resolute Man*).

Throughout Theta Chi Fraternity's noble existence, many of our esteemed brothers have, through their actions, proven themselves to be worthy of the title of Resolute Man.

Brother Historian, please advance and provide further examples of Resolute Men.

*(In the following reading, chapters may select two to three alumni to highlight. The host chapter may choose to substitute a brother mentioned below for an alumnus member of their own chapter who exemplifies one of the 5 areas of being a Resolute Man. Approval will rest with the Ritual Committee at each local chapter.)*

HISTORIAN — (*Historian advances to the front/lectern and reads about two to three of the following alumni, as determined by the chapter.*) A Resolute Man understands that leadership and teamwork are vital and that he must learn to work with and for others to achieve great things. Francis Van Natter (Rho/Illinois 1916) served as a captain in World War One. During a charge, 112 of his 120 men were killed in action. Despite being wounded, Brother Van Natter rallied the seven survivors and other Allies to hold a strategic position. Following the war, Brother Van Natter served on the Grand Chapter and led another charge – to build and establish the Theta Chi Monument in Norwich, Vermont.

A Resolute Man embodies our maxim, "Alma Mater First and Theta Chi for Alma Mater" and develops a life-long relationship with their college or university and achieves academic excellence. Floyd H. Bragg (Beta Delta/Rutgers 1936) served as President of the Rutgers Alumni Association, Chairman of the Board of Governors, and Chairman of the Board of the Rutgers Foundation. He funded the Helen and Floyd Bragg Endowed Scholarship to support Rutgers athletes. He received virtually every award from his alma mater, and was known by many as "Mr. Rutgers."

A Resolute Man has developed social skills and has become comfortable in social settings, with public speaking, and has gained an understanding of professional standards of behavior. Theodore Christianson (Alpha Pi/Minnesota 1906) pursued dual careers in western Minnesota, where he both practiced law and was editor and publisher of the Dawson Sentinel for fifteen years. He was elected a member of Minnesota's House of Representatives, and later elected Governor of Minnesota. He was elected National Vice President of Theta Chi - eight months after completing his term as Governor. He served on the Grand Chapter while also serving as a representative for Minnesota in the United States Congress.

A Resolute Man is prepared for life after graduation and becomes successful in his chosen field, exceling among a highly competitive workforce. Anton Hulman (Delta Pi/Indiana State 1970). Brother Hulman is widely known for his purchase and revitalization of the Indianapolis Motor Speedway in 1945, which his family still owns today. When the Delta Pi house burned to the ground in 1968, Hulman arranged for the members of the chapter to move into his hotel in downtown Terre Haute. In recognition of his support, the chapter initiated Anton Hulman into Theta Chi Fraternity in 1970. Two years later, the chapter had grown to more than 110 members.

A Resolute Man understands the meaning and the power of Theta Chi for Life and is dedicated to his brothers, friends, and family. Howard R. Alter, Jr. (Omega/Penn State 1941) served as National President and as Executive Director. When his hand-picked successor, Dale Slivinske (Gamma Sigma/Duke 1969) was diagnosed with AIDS, Brother Alter rotated shifts with Dale's brother Bruce to make sure Brother Slivinske was as comfortable as possible. Despite the unknowns surrounding the AIDS epidemic at the time, the Grand Chapter promoted Dale to Executive Vice President and stood by him. When Brother Slivinske joined the Chapter Eternal, many of Theta Chi's interfraternal friends remarked that Theta Chi and its members truly understood and lived the meaning of brotherhood.

*(Historian returns to his seat.)*

PRESIDENT — Thank you, Brother Historian. (*Addresses Candidate(s)*) These are but a few of Theta Chi Fraternity's Resolute Men. Should you choose to accept this title, you shall become one more link in their formidable chain. May your thoughts, deeds, and actions reflect the memory of the resolute men in the past, inspire those of the future, and bring glory and honor to Theta Chi Fraternity.

ALUMNUS — (*rises*) Brother President, if the candidate is (*candidates are*) willing and eager to accept the responsibility, promises to continue to live a life worthy of the title, and commits to honor the legacy of all of Theta Chi Fraternity's Resolute Men, then I request that you proceed to administer the pledge. (*sits*)

PRESIDENT — Brother(s) \_\_\_\_\_ do you so promise and commit? If so, say "I do."

CANDIDATE(S) — I do.

PRESIDENT — Brother Chaplain, you may now administer the oath of the Resolute Man. \*\*\*

CHAPLAIN — (*stands at the lectern*) I will first recite the oath in full;

I, (state your name in full), do solemnly accept the honor and responsibility of a Resolute Man. It will be my duty to teach my fellow brothers the meaning of Theta Chi Fraternity through my personal actions and guidance. I will also help any brothers in fulfilling their moral and civic duties should my assisting hand be required. I shall be a positive role model, and by example, show others the true meaning of the Resolute Man. As I accept my Resolute Man Guard, I promise to continue to live the remainder of my life upholding the values of this Fraternity for all those who have come before me and for all those who will follow in my example. I hereby accept this guard with the honor and integrity which it so rightfully deserves.

Please raise your right hand(s) and repeat after me.

I, (state your name in full), / do solemnly accept/ the honor and responsibility / of a Resolute Man. / It will be my duty / to teach my fellow brothers / the meaning of Theta Chi Fraternity / through my personal actions and guidance. / I will also help any brothers/ in fulfilling their moral and civic duties / should my assisting hand be required. / I shall be a positive role model /, and by example, / show others the true meaning of the Resolute Man. / As I accept my Resolute Man Guard /, I promise to continue / to live the remainder of my life / upholding the values of this Fraternity / for all those who have come before me/ and for all those who will follow in my example. / I hereby accept this guard / with the honor and integrity / which it so rightfully deserves.

ALL MEMBERS PRESENT— We are witnesses to this, your solemn oath and obligation.

(*Chaplain steps down from the lectern*)

PRESIDENT — You are now a Resolute Man (*Resolute Men*) of Theta Chi Fraternity. Congratulations! (*Pause for snaps.*) \*

(*Pause while all are seated.*)

In consideration of your solemn oath, and by the authority on me conferred by the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity, I hereby present you with your Resolute Man guard as a symbol of your title and acceptance.

*The President demonstrates the pinning of the Resolute Man guard while each new Resolute Man pins his own guard on his shirt. Badges will need to be removed in order to affix the guard.*

*The guard is attached to the Badge of Theta Chi and worn over the heart. The guard should be worn always attached to the Badge and only at appropriate times and on an appropriate shirt, sweater or more formal garment.*

As you look upon the Guard, you will see a replica of the Badge of Theta Chi surrounded by the Greek words **ἀποφασιστικός άνθρωπος** (pronounced *a-po-fa-sis-tiki / án-thro-pos*) meaning Resolute Man. The three rubies represent your time as a Theta Chi Pledge, Theta Chi Collegian and Theta Chi Alumnus. The Guard is attached to the Badge by a small chain. The links of this chain are emblematic of the many steps you have taken from when you received your Badge at your Initiation up until today, when you are formally recognized for your continued service to Theta Chi Fraternity. The geometric shape of the Guard is reflective of a downward facing triangle to remind you of your obligations to yourself and your brothers and an upward facing triangle to remind you of your responsibility to conduct yourself always as a Resolute Man.

It is customary in ceremonies such as these that a final Charge be given to members before the ceremony is completed. The Charge is not an oath, yet its words should be regarded with deference.

Alumnus Brother \_\_\_\_\_, you will give the Charge.

*(Alumnus Brother Advances to the lectern.)*

ALUMNUS BROTHER— You stand before us as a Resolute Man (as Resolute Men), an honor of great distinction. The guard you wear now is symbolic of the experience and commitments you have made. Wear it with pride. You are among the elite men in this organization who committed themselves over the course of their lives as Theta Chis to make themselves better men and to enrich the lives of those around them. Do not take this honor lightly, however, because with it comes a commitment to sustain excellence.

When you recite the Creed of Theta Chi Fraternity you speak to our membership and you teach brothers "Truth, Temperance and Tolerance". Throughout your life as a brother of Theta Chi you are expected to live by these lessons. From this day forward I charge you with giving more. Now more than ever our Fraternity needs its Resolute Men to give back to the Fraternity which has given them so much. As a Resolute Man it is expected that you will give your Time, your Talent and your Treasure. Every Resolute Man gives all three but in different forms. If time is your most valuable asset, give it to the fraternity. If talent is what you have to offer, give it to the fraternity. If your treasure will make an impact on the lives of future brothers, give it to the Fraternity. But know you do not take this charge alone.

You take this charge as have many who came before you. They felt the influence of this brotherhood, worked for its progress, its benefit, and valued its ideals. You are charged with doing the same, thereby upholding the morals and obligations of The Resolute Man.

*(Alumnus Brother steps down from the lectern)*

PRESIDENT — Brother Chaplain, please lead us in the closing prayer. \*\*\*

CHAPLAIN — *(Steps up to the lectern)* Almighty God, we give you thanks for all the blessings of this life, and especially for this Resolute Man *(these Resolute Men)* who stand before You today. We ask that You guide them as they work together to effect positive change in this world and strive to serve their Alma Mater. They have dedicated themselves to serving those whom they encounter. We ask that You bestow Your blessings upon them, their efforts and their future lives. These things we claim for them through Your grace, mercy and benevolence. For all good things come from You. Amen

PRESIDENT — This concludes our work. Please join me in congratulating this Resolute Man *(these Resolute Men)*. \*

*Finis, Resolute Man Ceremony*

## **Directions for the Alumni Ceremony**

The Alumni Ceremony is used to establish a bridge from undergraduate membership to alumnus status. The ceremony should take place close to the time of graduation. It is appropriate to hold the ceremony following a dinner in celebration of graduation. It may be held in the chapter house, a private room in a restaurant, or a private residence. Appropriate non-member guests may attend. Alumnus brothers must play a major role in this activity. Although this is a serious ceremony, it is not a somber one. It is, in fact, a celebration of a rite of passage.

### Personnel required:

- Four alumni with designated speaking parts
- Chaplain (may be substituted by an alumnus)
- Undergraduate Alumni Programming Chairman
- Three undergraduates to serve as voices

### Properties required:

- Theta Chi flag
- Portrait of Frederick Norton Freeman
- Portrait of Arthur Chase
- United States flag
- Canadian flag
- Bible, opened to Matthew 6:9-13
- Lectern
- Head table and four chairs
- One large red candle, at least three inches in diameter, placed on head table in front of FOURTH ALUMNUS
- Adequate seating for brothers, graduating seniors and guests
- White candles, with wax catchers, one for each graduating brother to hold
- Alphabetical list of all graduating seniors present for the ceremony for the Undergraduate Alumni Programming Chairman
- A sheet of paper listing:
  - Contact information of local alumni leaders and Theta Chi Counselor
  - Dates, times, and places of upcoming alumni events

### Room arrangement:

See Suggested Room Layout on Page 5. Only graduating seniors should stand in the area normally reserved for candidates.

The four alumni with roles in the ceremony should be seated at the head table. Other alumni may be seated among active brothers, leaving space in front for the graduating seniors to assemble when called. The adviser should conduct the ceremony with the assistance of the necessary number of undergraduate brothers. Appropriate attire is coat and tie.

All seating and room/gathering capacity limits must accommodate and conform to federal, state, local, and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. All those in attendance for ceremonies are expected to wear a mask and comply with all federal, state, and local laws. Any member or guest exhibiting symptoms of or having tested positive for COVID-19 shall not attend the ceremony until cleared, with documentation, by an appropriate physician.



## Alumni Ceremony

FIRST ALUMNUS — Greetings. (*Pause while meeting comes to order.*) We are here today to celebrate the works of our graduating seniors. Their record of caring will always be ingrained in the hearts of Theta Chi brothers who have known them, or who will in the future know them. Please give your attention to the Chaplain.

CHAPLAIN — The Lord said to Abraham, “Leave your country, your people and your father’s household and go to the land I will show you.”

Please bow your heads.

In all of history, O God, You have called each of us from the security of our family to go forth to the fullness of our own lives. We ask Your blessing now on these members of our Fraternity family. They go forth from undergraduates to graduates, from a community of living close together to walking different paths. Keep us always close to one another in our hearts, and help us always to offer the helping hand to each other. Let each be a blessing to one another and to Theta Chi Fraternity, forever and ever. Amen.

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI PROGRAMMING CHAIR OR ALUMNUS BROTHER  
— Brother (last name of FIRST ALUMNUS), I bring you seniors, ready to continue their journey in Theta Chi Fraternity.

They are: (*Reads alphabetical list of names of all graduating seniors present.*)

FIRST ALUMNUS — (*Addressing the seniors.*)

We welcome you to this moment in the history of Theta Chi Fraternity and express our happiness that on this day, you begin the next stage of your journey in our Fraternity. The only difference between alumni and yourselves is that we have graduated. In the eyes of Theta Chi Fraternity, we are the same.

SECOND ALUMNUS — All living things must draw nourishment and strength from their present environment and transform this energy into life. So it is with Theta Chi Fraternity. So it must be for each of us.

Brothers, you have known the beauty, the strength and the power of our brotherhood. This gift has been handed on from brother to brother through the years. It is, however, a fragile gift, like life itself. It must be cared for, defended, enriched and cherished.

It is for this purpose that we meet today to welcome you to the alumni ranks of Theta Chi Fraternity. We also ask you to renew your intention to live our brotherhood as alumnus members. We ask you to not only strive for your own integrity, but to work hard for the growth and development of the whole Fraternity. We ask you to make “Theta Chi for Life” not a mere slogan, but truly a way of life.

THIRD ALUMNUS — There are needs within Theta Chi Fraternity that only its alumni can meet. We can only meet them if you remain an active part of our Fraternity. We need alumnus brothers to extend a helping hand at the international, regional, and local levels. The quality and vision of leadership is in direct proportion to the volunteers from the ranks of the alumni. We all have responsibility for the quality of life in each chapter. Each chapter needs the time and resources of its alumni. This Fraternity needs guidance that does not control, but enables, enhances and promotes further maturity. Each chapter needs the support of alumnus brothers at Homecoming, on Founders Day, reunions, anniversaries, and other social occasions. These are the elements of our environment from which we draw strength in life and consolation in death. This is why Theta Chi is for life.

FIRST ALUMNUS — Brothers, we have often recited our Creed, but let us recite it now as an affirmation of our ideals, and a pledge of loyalty to the perpetuation of these ideals. All brothers, please stand.

*(Pause.)*

Together, let us recite The Creed of Theta Chi.

ALL BROTHERS — I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose. It has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advance of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance, and Tolerance, extols virtue, exacts harmony and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of alma mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow man.

FOURTH ALUMNUS — Alumnus brothers may be seated.

*(Pauses, then lights red candle.)*

Brothers, we see before us a flame that symbolizes the way of life we profess. Each of us, like the flame, needs care and tending. There is a frailty about all life, but there is also a power, a promise and a destiny. Our bonds of brotherhood are strength for each other in any circumstance. Do not allow time and distance to separate you from something you truly care about.

*(Alumni now pass unlit white candles to each senior.)*

FIRST ALUMNUS — The red candle symbolized the burning light of brotherhood from which we each draw strength. Brothers, please come forward and light your white alumnus candle from the flame.

*(Wait until each senior lights his candle. Pause further, in silence, before proceeding.)*

*(After pause, FIRST ALUMNUS should escort seniors back to the designated area, maintaining appropriate social distancing.)*

FIRST ALUMNUS — Though miles and years may from this time and place separate us, the lighting of these candles signifies our commitment to keep the ties and light of brotherhood and Fraternity connected.

SECOND ALUMNUS — The light of our red brotherhood candle is magnified by the white candles that we hold. Brotherhood shines brighter when those who have gone before us return to our halls. It is brighter because we have left a part of ourselves behind in this chapter; brighter because our ideals are now shared with the larger brotherhood of Theta Chi alumnus members in many cities and countries; brighter because new witnesses and examples are now present who demonstrate the commitment of “Theta Chi for Life.” We now have a new role in Theta Chi Fraternity, yet still retain our ties to \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter.

*(The following four undergraduate voices should come from various points around the room, behind the graduates. The tones of their voices should relay concern.)*

UNDERGRADUATE ALUMNI PROGRAMMING CHAIR — At times we, the undergraduate brotherhood, question one another.

*(Pause.)*

FIRST UNDERGRADUATE VOICE — Where are our alumni?

*(Pause.)*

SECOND UNDERGRADUATE VOICE — Why don't they visit?

*(Pause.)*

THIRD UNDERGRADUATE VOICE — Why don't they take an interest in us?

*(Pause.)*

FIRST ALUMNUS — Remember when you asked those same questions? You are now alumni of Theta Chi Fraternity. From now on, you must share in the responsibility for the answers. Your participation as an alumnus will answer these questions with an affirmation that Theta Chi is for life. Actively seek to assist our Fraternity, no matter where you reside. When called upon to serve our Fraternity, you must accept that call to the best of your ability.

FOURTH ALUMNUS — Graduation is both exciting and somber. It is difficult to say goodbye to friends and brothers you love and respect. Seek fulfillment in your life as you continue your journey. You will not be alone.

THIRD ALUMNUS – Let us sing our Fraternity Anthem.

*(All sing “Dear Old Theta Chi”.)*

*(In some chapters it is customary for a token or gift to be presented to each graduating senior. This would be an appropriate time for the presentation.)*

FIRST ALUMNUS – This concludes the work of the Alumni Ceremony. Brothers, you may extinguish your candles. Safe journeys to you all. I now declare this gathering informal for the purpose of congratulating our new alumni of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity.

***Finis, Alumni Ceremony***

*(Printed information regarding local and regional alumnus leadership, as well as upcoming alumni events may be provided to each alumnus present at this time, if not done earlier at some informal stage of the gathering.)*

## **Directions for Deceased Brother Ceremony**

For use when a brother joins the Chapter Eternal:

When a brother has passed on, this ceremony is designed to be used in a number of different settings, including but not limited to a funeral home, gravesite, home of the deceased, church, or chapter site. In all cases the wishes of the family and any special circumstances **must** be taken into consideration. For these reasons, portions of the ceremony may be used or omitted as best will suit the situation. Alternative readings are provided, and others may also be substituted. Although the entire ceremony can be conducted by one presiding brother, the various parts may be divided among several of those brothers present. A eulogy may also be added to the ceremony, as well as musical selections among the readings, or personal reflections by those present.

### *Personnel required:*

- Presiding Brother — This may be the Chapter President or any other appropriate brother.
- Three brothers, if available, to read specified parts.

### *Properties required:*

- Carnations, one for each brother present
- Three tall red tapered candles

All seating and room/gathering capacity limits must accommodate and conform to federal, state, local, and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. All those in attendance for ceremonies are expected to wear a mask and comply with all federal, state, and local laws. Any member or guest exhibiting symptoms of or having tested positive for COVID-19 shall not attend the ceremony until cleared, with documentation, by an appropriate physician.

## Deceased Brother Ceremony

PRESIDING BROTHER — Members of Brother \_\_\_\_\_'s family, friends, and brothers in Theta Chi Fraternity, on behalf of the International Fraternity and all its members, I extend to you our prayers and love on this occasion. Our Theta Chi family is composed of a variety of backgrounds, customs, and beliefs, yet we share a unity in life and in brotherhood. We gather in love to commemorate and to honor Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who has gone to the Chapter Eternal. It is our solemn belief that the God of all people welcomes us to a new and eternal life when life on earth is over. We also believe that the brotherhood and the family established here on earth will endure and be present in the next life. With that in mind we ask you all to join in prayer.

Good and loving God, we commend to your care and compassion Brother \_\_\_\_\_, who in this life walked in the brotherhood of Theta Chi. We felt his presence in our lives and in our Fraternity. We will miss his presence in our gatherings. We ask you to accept him in the spirit of the helping hand, which he extended to us and through which we pay our final respects. Accept him and our prayers. We ask your kindness and love for our brother's family, his friends, and our brotherhood. May Your peace be in our hearts now and forever. Amen.

PRESIDING BROTHER — Will all brothers of Theta Chi please rise and sing "Held Fast in Friendship's Bond."

*(Music and lyrics on page 29, sung to the tune of "Nearer My God to Thee.")*

FIRST BROTHER — Thank you, brothers. You may be seated.

*(Pause.)*

The first reading is taken from the Christian scriptures. These are some thoughts from John's Gospel:

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many places to live in; if it were not so I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will return and take you to myself, so that where I am you might be also.

"I will pray to the Father and He will give you another Comforter to be with you forever, the Spirit of truth, whom the world can never accept since it neither sees nor knows him, but you know him because He is with you, He is in you. I will not leave you comfortless: I will come to you. In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see that I live and you also will live.

"I have said these things while still with you, but the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you. Peace I leave you; my peace I give you, a peace which the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

SECOND BROTHER — The second reading is from the writings of Paul Irion.

"Yesterday, today, tomorrow: how quickly they blend into one another. The memories of yesterday and the promises of tomorrow meet in the living of today. For this reason, today is a mixture of gratitude and challenge.

"As we think of the past and the life that has ended, we are grateful for the benefits we have received from it. As we think of the inscrutable future we feel the challenge of our possibilities, that life tomorrow might be filled with greater worth and meaning. And today, in the midst of sadness and loss, we resolve to pick up the unfinished tasks laid down by those who have lived, to dream anew their unfilled dreams, and to give ourselves to sharing the enduring qualities of beauty, joy, and love, which they have shared with us."

THIRD BROTHER — The third reading is from the Jewish Reform liturgy.

"We are assembled with our friends in the shadow that has fallen on their home. We raise our voices together in prayer to the source of life, asking for comfort and strength.

"We need light when gloom darkens our home; to whom shall we look, but to the Creator of Light? We need fortitude and courage when pain and loss assail us; where shall we find them, if not in the thought of Him who preserves all that is good from destruction?"

"Who among us has not passed through trials and bereavements? Some bear fresh wounds in their hearts, and therefore feel more keenly the kinship of sorrow. Others, whose days of mourning are more remote, still recall the comfort that sympathy brought to their sorrowing hearts.

"All things pass; all that lives must die. All that we prize is but lent to us; and the time comes when we must surrender it. We are travelers on the same road that leads to the same end."

PRESIDING BROTHER — The Creed of Theta Chi bound us to Brother \_\_\_\_\_ and binds us to one another. Brothers, rise and join me now in reciting The Creed.

ALL BROTHERS — I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place among the educational institutions of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance and Tolerance, extols virtue, exacts harmony and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of alma mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow man.

*(Suggested place for eulogy and/or personal reflections, if any are to be included.)*

PRESIDING BROTHER — Brothers, you may now each pass to offer your final respects, and then return to your seats.

*(Appropriate music may be played as each brother present passes by the casket, urn, grave, or altar, placing a red carnation at the foot of the casket, urn, into the grave, or on the altar. Brothers should then return to their seats. Participants should maintain appropriate social distancing at all times.)*

PRESIDING BROTHER — An old man going a lone highway  
came at the evening, cold and gray,  
to a chasm vast and deep and wide  
through which was flowing a sullen tide;  
the old man crossed in the twilight dim,  
the sullen stream had no fear for him.  
But he turned when safe on the other side  
and built a bridge to span the tide.  
“Old man” said a fellow pilgrim near,  
“you are wasting your time in building here;  
your journey will end with the ending day.  
You never again will pass this way.  
You’ve crossed the chasm deep and wide;  
why build you this bridge at the evening tide?”  
The builder lifted his old gray head—  
“Good friend, in the path that I have come,” he said,  
“there followeth after me today,  
a youth whose feet must pass this way;  
this chasm that has been naught to me  
to that fair haired youth may be a pitfall be.  
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim—  
good friend, I am building this bridge for him.”



Brother \_\_\_\_\_ was a bridge builder for us. Let us now go forth continuing to build bridges for those who will follow after us.

Please join me in singing our Fraternity Anthem.

*(All sing "Dear Old Theta Chi".)*

PRESIDING BROTHER — As in the world around us, so too in human life, darkness is followed by light and sorrow by comfort. Life and death are twins; grief and hope walk hand in hand. Let us put our trust in the undying spirit who calls us into life and who abides to all eternity.

This concludes the work of the Ceremony for a Deceased Brother. Let us go forth and celebrate the spirit of life of Brother \_\_\_\_\_.

***Finis, Deceased Brother Ceremony***

## ALTERNATE READINGS

"Death, strangely, can teach us to celebrate life. We have known those who, suffering and weakened, bestow a rich legacy of courage and endurance for living. We have witnessed those who, overflowing with the love of life, did not count the cost of walking without hesitancy into the future.

"These set us free to walk undaunted, to live as freely as we can, to invest ourselves in sharing. These cause us to see the value of today and the promise of tomorrow.

"In celebrating the life he has lived, we celebrate the possibilities of our own living."  
--*Paul Irion*

"The Lord is my shepherd, I shall not want. He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters. He restores my soul. He leads me in right paths for the sake of His name. Even when I walk in the valley of the shadow of death, I shall fear no evil, for You are with me. With rod and staff You comfort me. You have set a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You have anointed my head with oil; my cup overflows. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life, and I shall dwell in the house of the Lord forever."  
--*Psalm 23*

"I will lift up my eyes to the mountains; from whence shall my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth. He will not let your foot be moved, He who keeps you will not slumber. Behold, He who keeps Israel will neither slumber nor sleep. The Lord is your keeper; He is your shade on your right hand. The sun shall not smite you by day, nor the moon by night. The Lord will keep you from all evil; He will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time forth and for evermore."  
--*Psalm 121*

"When Cherished ties are broken, and the chain of love is shattered, only trust and the strength of faith can lighten the heaviness of the heart. At times, the pain of separation seems more than we can bear, but if we dwell too long on our loss we embitter our hearts and harm ourselves and those about us.

"The Psalmist said that in his affliction he learned the law of God. And in truth, grief is a greater teacher, when it sends us back to serve and bless the living. We learn how to counsel and comfort those who, like ourselves, are bowed with sorrow. We learn when to keep silence in their presence, and when a word will assure them of our love and concern.

"Thus, even when they are gone, the departed are with us, moving us to live as, in their higher moments, they themselves wished to live. We remember them now; they live in our hearts; they are an abiding blessing."  
--*Jewish Reform liturgy*

"Lord of spirit, we have turned to You to comfort in these days of grief. When the cup of sorrow passed into our hands, Your presence consoled us. Now we rise up to face the tasks of life once more. There will be moments of woe and hours of loneliness, for a loved one has passed from our sight. In our times of weakness may his memory strengthen our spirit. Teach us, O God, to give thanks for all that was deathless in the life of our dear companion and friend, and which now is revealed to us in all its beauty. Be our support when our own strength fails us.

"For the love that death cannot sever; for the friendship we shared along life's path; for those gifts of heart and mind which have now become a precious heritage; for these and more, we are grateful. Now help us, Lord, not to dwell on sorrow and pain, but to honor our beloved by the quality of our lives. Amen."

--*Jewish Reform liturgy*

"The light of life is a finite flame. Like the Sabbath candles, life is kindled, it burns, it glows, it is radiant with warmth and beauty. But soon it fades, its substance is consumed, and is no more.

"In the light we see; in the light we are seen. The flames dance and our lives are full. But as night follows day, the candle of our life burns down and gutters. There is an end to the flames. We weep no more and are no more seen. Yet we do not despair, for we are more than a memory slowly fading into the darkness. With our lives we give life. Something of us can never die: we move in the eternal cycle of darkness and death, of light and life."

--*Jewish Reform liturgy*

## Directions for the Memorial Ceremony

For use at a chapter or other appropriate setting:

The Memorial Ceremony is used to commemorate all brothers (if even only one) from a chapter who have passed to the Chapter Eternal since the previous Memorial Ceremony. Appropriate attire is coat and tie. The Memorial Ceremony is to be conducted on an as-needed basis, typically once per year or biennium. When needed, opportunities to conduct the Memorial Ceremony could include: the beginning of the academic year, the first chapter meeting in January, Founders Day, the anniversary of your chapter's installation, etc.

Though it is one of our Public Ceremonies, the Memorial Ceremony is considered to be more private in nature and in tone. If a ceremony is needed for a funeral or gravesite, the Deceased Brother Ceremony should be utilized (see page 20).

### Personnel required:

- President
- Vice President
- Secretary
- Chaplain

### Properties required:

- Gavel
- One large red candle, at least three inches in diameter, lit
- Bible
- List of deceased brothers
- Red Carnation – 1 for each deceased brother. The President will instruct the Chaplain to place them at the foot of the Altar

### General Preparations:

Throughout the entirety of this Memorial Ceremony, the asterisk, (\*) signifies one rap of the gavel. Three raps of the gavel, (\* \* \*) means the brothers should stand. One rap (\*) means to be seated and come to attention.

All seating and room/gathering capacity limits must accommodate and conform to federal, state, local, and CDC guidelines regarding social distancing. All those in attendance for ceremonies are expected to wear a mask and comply with all federal, state, and local laws. Any member or guest exhibiting symptoms of or having tested positive for COVID-19 shall not attend the ceremony until cleared, with documentation, by an appropriate physician.

## Memorial Ceremony

PRESIDENT — \* The meeting will come to order.

*(Pause.)*

Brother Vice President, how many brothers constitute a quorum in a chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity?

VICE PRESIDENT — One less than a majority of the active members.

PRESIDENT — Brother Vice President, is not a quorum, as a matter of custom, a full majority of the active members of a chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity?

VICE PRESIDENT — That is true, Brother President, but in the course of human events the membership of our Fraternity is a constantly changing group. New men cast their lots with ours, and, as the years roll on, our brothers are taken from us by the intervention of the Almighty. Today we meet to celebrate the lives and to memorialize the passing of each brother whose journey in Theta Chi has ended and who has entered the Chapter Eternal. It is therefore fitting that the memory is a symbol that the light of their presence will always shine in the hearts of their brothers.

PRESIDENT — It is so ordered, Brother Vice President. *(Pause.) \* \* \* (Pause for all to stand.)*

Brother Chaplain, read the opening prayer.

CHAPLAIN — Almighty God, our divine Father, though with bolts and bars and secret signals we may seclude ourselves from others, we would not think with such inventions to seclude ourselves from You. Recognizing the greatness of Your works, we bid You welcome, and with hearts overflowing with gratitude for the richness of life we bow again in humility to ask Your continued blessing. Erring, we seek Your guidance. Weak, we come to You for strength. Ignorant, we would yet attain wisdom. Inspire our thoughts, govern our actions, and direct our deliberations, to the end that together we may walk in the footsteps of our Great Example until, guided by the light of Truth, we come into the fullness of a united brotherhood, where deceit withers before it is spoken, where the Helping Hand is extended before the needy shall suffer, and where a perfect love casts out fear. Amen.

PRESIDENT — In the name of the Grand Chapter of Theta Chi Fraternity and by the authority on me conferred, I declare this memorial meeting of \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter open. \*

The memorial bells of Theta Chi Fraternity toll again. We remember those who but yesterday walked among us and carried some matchless inspiration of their own. Together, they and we have known the dawn. Together, they and we have known the glory of the strength of the noonday sun. Together, they and we have rested in the evening and toiled into the night in search of truth.

Now, for them has come the summons to the Chapter Eternal, which is the final chapter for us all. There it is that dawn, noon and night are their fullest state. There it is that man's harvest is complete. It is written that "Man that is born of woman of a few days and full of trouble. He comes forth as a flower and is cut down. He flees a shadow."

*(Brief pause.)*

Is life therefore in vain, we ask? Not in the teachings of our Fraternity, nor in the lives of our honored brothers. We pause to voice the esteem in which we held our newly departed brothers. Their labors for the living chapter earned them their place in the Chapter Eternal. Peace be with them. They are an inspiration to those of us who yet remain. God grant, with integrity and honor that we continue in service to our Fraternity, to one another, and life's journey.

\*\*\* *(Pause.)*

Brother Chaplain, you will place at the foot of the Altar our tokens of remembrance of those who have departed since our last service. Brother Secretary, call the roll of our departed brothers.

SECRETARY — *(The Secretary calls the roll of all brothers of the chapter who have died since the last Memorial Ceremony, reading the full name and class year of each. Chaplain places a Red Carnation for each brother at the foot of the Altar.)*

PRESIDENT — Brothers, please join me in singing "Held Fast in Friendship's Bond."

*(Music and lyrics on page 29, sung to the tune of "Nearer My God to Thee.")*

PRESIDENT — Brother Chaplain, lead us in prayer.

CHAPLAIN — God, Your mercy and compassion surpasses all understanding. Be with us, we pray, at this time. Extend a hand of comfort and protection to the families of our departed brothers and to those who loved them dearly, for to them our words are as empty as the sigh of the wind in the forest. Inspire our hearts with wisdom from on high that we may glorify them in all ways. May we realize that Your eyes are upon us, and be so influenced by the spirit of truth and love that we may enjoy the divine blessings here on earth. When our toils on this earth are ended, may we be raised to the enjoyment of immortal life in that kingdom where faith and hope shall end, and love and joy prevail through the eternal ages. Amen.

PRESIDENT — This concludes the work of the Memorial Ceremony. \*

*Finis, Memorial Ceremony*

# SONGS

## Dear Old Theta Chi

F.W. Kurtz, Delta 1913

C.C. Finch, Delta 1914

*Piano intro*



It is to thee, dear old The-ta Chi, We sing our songs of



praise. It is to thee, our fra - ter - ni - ty, that we ou - r voi - ces



raise. And may we al-ways re - spect thee and may our faith ne'er die. May we



all up - hold the name of dear old The - ta Chi.



# Held Fast in Friendship's Bond

W.F. Frantz, Alpha Pi 1939

The image shows a musical score for a song. It consists of three staves of music, each with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The time signature is common time (C). The lyrics are written below the notes. The first staff contains the first line of the song, the second staff contains the second line, and the third staff contains the third line. The lyrics are: "Held fast in friend-ship's bond, Bro - thers we stand; of one Fra - ter - ni - ty, ou - r help - ing hand. Strong is the ten - der tie, wrought by our The - ta Chi; true ear - nest faith - ful band, ou - r hel - ping hand."

Held fast in friend-ship's bond, Bro - thers we stand; of one Fra -  
ter - ni - ty, ou - r help - ing hand. Strong is the ten - der tie, wrought by our  
The - ta Chi; true ear - nest faith - ful band, ou - r hel - ping hand.

## THE CREED OF THETA CHI

I believe in Theta Chi, its traditions and its ideals. Born of sturdy manhood, nurtured by resolute men, ennobled by high and sacred purpose, it has taken its place among the educational institutes of America as a promoter of knowledge, an advancer of culture, and a builder of character.

It inspires true friendship; teaches Truth, Temperance, and Tolerance, extols virtue, exacts harmony, and extends a helping hand to all who seek it.

I believe in the primacy of Alma Mater; in the usefulness of my Fraternity, in its influence and its accomplishments and I shall do all in my power to perpetuate its ideals, thereby serving my God, my country, and my fellow-man.

*Frank H. Schrenk, Kappa/Pennsylvania 1915  
National President, 1926-1929*