

# Sample: "Ceremony of Remembrance"

## Ceremony of Remembrance

**Music:** Appropriate music is suggested but not required.

**Instructions:** *This ceremony may be used in remembrance of a deceased member. An officer may read the service and someone who knew the member very well may present the eulogy.*

**Presider:** We, as members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, come together today to honor our friend and member, \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name)* \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name)* \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter.

During her lifetime she was all the Society represents – a key woman educator. She performed her educational tasks with enthusiasm and dedication. Whatever she attempted, she carried through responsibly. She sought to enrich the lives of those she taught and those with whom she worked. Intellectual and professional growth were her constant goals.

*Option: It is suggested that her personal life as an educator, member and friend be described by someone who knew her well. After this eulogy, the presider continues.*

**Presider:** We mourn her death because we will miss her, but she has left a part of herself with those she loved, with her colleagues, and with all of us.

Let us keep her memory alive by continuing her work. We add her name now to those who preceded her. We place this rose to commit her memory to us forever.

*Option: The presider and/or each member may place a rose on either the casket or grave site. If the ceremony is part of a memorial service, the rose may be placed in a vase. An appropriate song may be sung and/or the placing of the rose may be positioned to conclude the ceremony. Red or white roses may be used.*

# Celebration of Life

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**Prelude/Processional:** Flute accompanied by piano or other appropriate music.

**Words of Celebration Reading:** Written by Becky Sadowski, Tennessee

### “Who Are They?”

**Leader:** Who are these women whose lives we celebrate today? Our sisters were true leaders who unselfishly shared their gifts and talents and encouraged others.

**Response:** We honor their contributions.

**Leader:** Our sisters were women of vision—always looking forward and courageously willing to accept as well as to initiate change when needed.

**Response:** We acknowledge their strong commitment to the mission and Purposes of our Society.

**Leader:** Our sisters were dedicated mentors who listened carefully, shared their wisdom and gladly offered support.

**Response:** We remember both the challenges and the successes we experienced together.

**Leader:** Our sisters served well and brought great joy among us.

**Response:** We celebrate their lives and cherish the fellowship we shared.

**Leader:** We will always be grateful for our sisters who have left us. They strengthened us for our future journey and will forever be a part of who we are as a Society.

**Appropriate music:** presented by a chorus or an individual

Placement of Roses in Celebration

The white roses remind us that even though our sisters are no longer with us they will always remain in our hearts and be a part of Delta Kappa Gamma.

**Appropriate tributes for deceased members:** individual eulogies or by region/area or chapter.

### “Gifts and Giving”

Priceless gifts are wrapped in love.  
They are topped with ribbons of  
Knowledge and experience.  
Such gifts have been given and shared.

The gifts of leadership, courage foresight.  
The gifts of teaching and leading of teachers.  
The gifts of loyalty, trust and dedication.  
The gifts of sisterhood, guidance and enrichment.

Today we acknowledge those gifts  
And celebrate the lives who gave them.  
Receiving them with careful hands we share  
What our mentors taught us to become.

Together we with further education and educator.  
Together we will be one in purpose and mission.  
Together we will continue the legacy clearly left us.  
Together we stand firmly and move forward.

Written by Janye Brainard, Texas

**Appropriate music:** presented by a chorus or an individual.

**Additional reading (optional):** This ceremony included a reading of Life Must Go On...a Navaho Prayer (A non-religious Funeral Reading). It can be read if not printed—permission should be obtained for use in print.

**The Delta Kappa Gamma Song Suggested:** instrumental or piano with flute accompaniment.

**Postlude/Recessional:** Appropriate music, piano or instrumental.

# Internment Remembrance

## Internment Remembrance

**Suggested Procedure:** *This ceremony is a commitment service used at the internment of a member of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. It may supplement any of the usual forms of burial ceremonies. It is assumed, in carrying out this service, that members will form a group near the grave. At the appropriate time, the presider will say:*

The members of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, of which \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name)* \_\_\_\_\_ was a faithful member, will now give their special tribute(s).

*A member of the Society steps forward and reads the ceremony. At its conclusion, she places a rose on the casket/urn. Other members may do likewise. The service may then be returned to the person in charge; or, if preferred, members may join in an appropriate song.*

**Speaker #1:** As we say farewell to this key woman educator, \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name)* \_\_\_\_\_, may we unite in a rededication to the Seven Purposes to which our Society is dedicated that were exemplified in her character.

**Speaker #2:** *It is suggested that her personal life as an educator, member and friend be described by someone who knew her well. After this eulogy, the presider continues.*

**Speaker #3:** \_\_\_\_\_ *(Name)* \_\_\_\_\_, this flower goes with you to your earthly resting place as a symbol of the love of your sisters. The rose of our Society will be dearer to us as it recalls your memory.

# Necrology Readings

## She Taught Me

Into her classroom I came, books in hand,  
Shy, timid, uncertain...I was an empty slate.  
She was strong, dedicated, driven.  
She taught me, and I learned well.

Into my classroom I came, new roll book in hand.  
Eager, young, scared...I was untried.  
She was kind, focused, wise.  
She taught me, and I learned well.

Into this sisterhood I came, gold key in hand.  
Seasoned, proud, confident...I was honored.  
She was colleague, mentor, friend.  
She taught me, and I learned well.

Into this sacred place I come, white rose in hand.  
Saddened, tearful, grateful...I am inspired.  
Now, a guardian of the faith, she sleeps.  
Yet, she continues to teach, and I learn well.

Elizabeth Watson, Beta State Organization  
Southeast Regional Director, 2011-2012

# Necrology Readings

## A Teacher Dreams

- Leader:** When I die,  
Write but one word on my stone:
- Assembly:** Write "Teacher"...  
Never mind a date or name,
- Leader:** For only in this way would I be known,  
Without a title,  
Timeless,  
Without Fame.
- Assembly:** Perhaps some  
Who wander through the grounds  
Where I lie sleeping,
- Leader:** As they pass through  
May read the brief tributes about the mounds,  
And note the word,  
Then speak of some they knew.
- Assembly:** "Now my first teacher  
Taught me how to love,"  
And "I remember how one teacher smiled."
- Leader:** "Another teacher took my thoughts above  
The world I knew,  
(A big-eyed, clumsy child)."
- All:** And, as these thoughts are stirred, above my head,  
I shall be teaching...though mortals call me dead.

Mary Oler, Texas Honorary Member,  
The Delta Kappa Gamma *Bulletin*, Winter 1978