

## Flag Ceremony

This ceremony is conducted by the Worthy Matron, or at her request, by the Worthy Patron. At the Worthy Matron's request, any other parts may be traded for the convenience of the officers.

All officers and members stand at attention, facing the flag, with the right hand over the heart, or a military salute while the flag is actually in motion and during the singing of the National Anthem. At the close of the ceremony the Pledge of Allegiance is given as nationally adopted, during which time the right hand is again held over the heart or a military salute while it is in motion.

The only officers who turn slightly when the flag is brought to the Altar are Adah, Ruth, Martha and Electa, in the same manner as when the Conductress attends at the Altar.

The flag is placed inside the Chapter room, at the left of the station of the Marshal, or at the left of the Associate Patron, if he presents the flag.

The flag ceremony begins immediately after the opening ceremony.

*The Presiding Officer addresses the Marshal/Associate Patron by saying, “Sister/Brother Marshal/Associate Patron you will present Old Glory.”*

The Marshal salutes the flag before taking the flag from its stand, by placing her/his hand over her/his heart, or a military salute, and then she/he takes the flag from the stand, carrying it on left side with the right hand high and the left hand low on the staff; the left arm is to be straight at the side. The Marshal/Associate Patron proceeds west along the south marching line until she/he reaches a point two (2) to four (4) steps beyond Esther's station, makes an acute angle and marches into the Labyrinth to a point slightly to the northwest corner of the Altar, so the flag is not over the Bible and does not touch the Altar. When the Marshal/Associate Patron reaches the Altar, all (except the Marshal/Associate Patron) join in singing the National Anthem.

The Flag Ceremony continues as follows:

*(Note: the officers do not bow to the officer conducting the ceremony.)*

**Worthy Patron:** “Sister Associate Conductress, what is the proper position for this banner in a Chapter of our Order?”

**Associate Conductress:** “In the East, Worthy Patron.”

**Worthy Patron:** “Sister Conductress, why is that its proper position?”

**Conductress:** “Worthy Patron, over twenty (20) centuries ago, there arose in the Far East the Star of Bethlehem, which wise men followed to the manger cradle of the Prince of Peace, the Immortal Son of our Heavenly Father, from whom comes all wisdom and strength. So, we place in the East the emblem of a people who we prayerfully hope will yet do much to forward his Kingdom on Earth.”

**Worthy Patron:** “It is well, \_\_\_\_\_ Marshal; you will bear our flag to its proper position.”

The Organist plays a march. The Marshal passes through the Labyrinth and places the flag in a position at the right the Worthy Matron. The Marshal/Associate Patron places the flag in its proper standard and again salutes the flag.

**Worthy Patron:** “Sister Associate Matron, what does our flag symbolize?”

**Associate Matron:** “The flag symbolizes our aspirations and achievements as Americans – our struggles and sacrifices – our devotion to the ideals expressed by our founding fathers.”

**Worthy Patron:** “My Sisters, you who are the five jewels in our Golden Chain, have you a tribute to our flag?”

**Electa:** “Worthy Patron, the red of our flag symbolizes the fervency and devotion that presided at its birth.”

**Esther:** “Worthy Patron, the white of our flag represents that purity of purpose which should animate our great republic.”

**Adah:** “Worthy Patron, the blue of our flag represents the fidelity of its defenders on many a well contested field.”

**Ruth:** “Worthy Patron, the fifty stars on our flag represent a constellation which should stand in the sky of nations like liberty enlightening the world.”

**Martha:** “Worthy Patron, as Martha I would speak of the faith we have in Old Glory, inspired by its heroic past and its ultimate future.”

**Worthy Patron:** “Sisters and Brothers, we will repeat in unison the “Pledge of Allegiance” to the flag of our country.”

**All:** “I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.”

*The Marshal/Associate Patron returns to her/his station. The Worthy Matron seats the Chapter after the Marshal/Associate Patron arrives back at her/his station.*

*If the flag ceremony is not to be exemplified, the flag shall be placed in the East in its proper position at all Chapter meetings.*