

Draping The Charter

All too often the Worshipful Master learns of a member passing to the Celestial Lodge above. At the next communication, he mentions the event then moves on to other business; or he may call up the Lodge for a moment of silence; or have it completely slip his mind. At some point, someone will drape a black cloth over the Charter.

Because of the wide disparity among Lodges handling the passing of a Brother, Grand Lodge developed a short memorial called Draping the Charter.

Prior to Lodge opening, the Charter is removed from the wall and placed on an easel in the Northeast corner. At the appropriate time (soon after opening) the Worshipful Master raises the Lodge.

Master: Since our last regular communication we have been called upon to mourn the death of

Brother JJJ

Entered as an Entered Apprentice (date)

Passed as a Fellow Craft (date)

Raised to the Sublime Degree (date)

Raised to Celestial Lodge Above (date)

The Brethren will observe a moment of silence.

Remain standing

A Hymn may be sung or Organist plays softly in background while

Deacons drape the charter

Chaplain:

Great Architect and Sovereign Ruler of the Universe. Lord of all those in the Flesh and in the Spirit. We bless and thank you for all Brethren who have completed their Earthly Life, having held fast to their Faith in you. We remember our Brother JJJ thanking you for his Friendship, his Life and his Service to our Fraternity. We give thanks to you O Lord for the Gift of Life and for the Fellowship of the Brethren here and in the Celestial Lodge above. Through our relationship with you, Grant O Lord, that our journey here shall be filled with Peace, Happiness and Obedience to your will; so that we may, at the end of our Journey here on Earth, be joined with our Brethren, who have gone before us into that Celestial Lodge where there are no tears but only Eternal Joy with you.

Amen So Mote it Be

The Master seats the Lodge and carries on with business arising.