

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

The Golden Legion Ceremony

Setting

Six (6) blue candlesticks evenly spaced on a table. This table may be the speakers table, but it is best if it is a separate one directly in front of the speaker, yet not hiding the Master of Ceremonies from the audience. This arrangement will enable six brothers to face the audience by standing BEHIND the table, each in front of a candle. It is also suggested that they take their places just before the ceremony begins and that they be undergraduate members of a chapter or representatives of an alumni club when possible. They will each have been assigned the name of one of the Founders and will arrange themselves on their own left to right accordingly in this order: Robert Morrison, John McMillan Wilson, Robert Thompson Drake, John Wolfe Lindley, Ardivan Walker Rogers, and Andrew Watts Rogers. The man assigned the name of "Robert Morrison" will have a box of matches, and, if possible, a taper in his hand.

Master of Ceremony: "Brothers in *The Bond* [and friends of Phi Delta Theta], we pause at this moment to do honor to a [the] Brothers[s], who signed *The Bond* fifty or more years ago. By the same token, we pay homage to the "Immortal Six," the Founders of our Fraternity, the first to affix their signatures to that unaltered covenant to which we have all pledged our sacred word and honor."

[The brother assigned the name of "Morrison" lights his taper (a tool that has a handle bearing a wick at one end and a cup for extinguishing on the other) and all other lights are extinguished, leaving the room in darkness except for the lighted taper. If possible, a small group sings one chorus of a Phi Delta Theta song (Phi Delta Theta We Love You.) As they hum the second chorus, without hurry, the brother representing Morrison shall light the candle in front of him, pronouncing the name "Robert Morrison" in firm, clear tones. Again, without hurry, he hands the taper to his neighbor who lights his candle, pronouncing the name of "John McMillan Wilson" and so on, until six candles are similarly lighted and the taper extinguished. The choral group finishes the song.]

Master of Ceremony: "What is our open motto?"

Brothers: "Εἰς ἀνερ οὐδεὶς ἀνερ."

Master of Ceremony: "Its translation?"

Brothers: We enjoy life by the help and society of others.

[Candle lighters return, unhurried, to their seats and lights come on again.]

Master of Ceremony: "We have just witnessed a simple ceremony which symbolizes the beacon set by our Founders over a hundred and _____ years ago to guide their own and the steps of their successors to noble living, not only on paths of the campus but on the highways of postgraduate life. The ceremony also typifies the rekindling of the loyalty, devotion and gratitude of all of us to those Founders whose sense of Brotherhood and high ideals found expression in the creation of Phi Delta Theta at Miami University, in Oxford, Ohio, on December 26, 1848.

Master of Ceremony (continued):

“We shall not cease to be grateful to these men whose vision was of a friendship originating on the campus, projecting itself into the realities of the world, and making life finer and better for the thousands who would sign *The Bond*.

“To be a Phi for even a day has its compensations. The satisfactions of membership accumulate with the years. Its influence extends over a life made increasingly richer in culture, in character, and enduring friendships.

“For some who signed *The Bond* fifty years or more ago, memories of those early days may be somewhat vague but not without pleasure as they go back through the years to the old chapter hall and there reveal the altar before which these Brothers took their vows or heard them taken by others, vows which do no violence to their God, their Country, or themselves.

“No man can sit in the presence of Golden Legionnaires and pretend that membership in Phi Delta Theta is but a campus interlude. Once exposed to *The Bond*, its influence extends over a lifetime. *The Bond* contains a philosophy which makes for those who accept it, genuinely, a life that is full and rich in those things that do not perish. *The Bond* is the warranty which gives Phi Delta Theta its right and its duty to live and to serve young men and old, and it is in the spirit of *The Bond* that I summon to this place before me the candidate[s] for the Golden Legion. Please withhold your applause until the end of the ceremony.”

[*Again, if a choral group is available, have a quiet song sung while the sponsors bring the candidate(s) to the Master of Ceremony.*]

Sponsor: “I have the honor to present as qualified for the Golden Legion, Brother[s] _____, (a) member(s) of *chapter name* _____, initiated _____ [date].”

[*The above presentation is repeated for each candidate.*]

Master of Ceremony: “In the name of our great Brotherhood, I greet you, Brother[s] _____. This occasion may stimulate memories of another ceremony in which you participated a half century or more ago. You will recall that after an arduous and impressive journey you came to a state of ease, and after taking solemn vows, you were raised to Knighthood in the beautiful ceremony of the Accolade.

“During the years since, we have reason to believe you have kept those vows, wherefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the General Council, I hereby create you (a) member(s) of the Golden Legion of Phi Delta Theta, in testimony of which I hand you this (these) certificate(s), saturated with the good wishes of your Brothers for long years of health and happiness and further enjoyment of membership in our beloved Fraternity.”

[*After all certificates are presented, the brothers rise and applaud.*]

The ceremony is complete after the newly-created legionnaire(s) is (are) invited to offer a few words on his (their) experiences as Brothers in the Bond.

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

The Silver Legion Ceremony

Representative of the Alumni Club or Chapter:

“Brothers in *The Bond* and friends of Phi Delta Theta, we come at this time to recognize a (those) brother(s) who signed *The Bond* twenty-five or more years ago. The following brother(s) will please come forward to be recognized: [***Read alumnus’ name, chapter, and initiation date.***]

Brother’s Name	Chapter	Initiation Date
1. _____		
2. _____		
3. _____		
4. _____		
5. _____		
6. _____		
7. _____		
8. _____		
9. _____		
10. _____		

“Brother(s), you stand before us to be honored as qualified for the Silver Legion of Phi Delta Theta, and to be reminded that you have now passed the halfway point toward the goal of becoming (a) member(s) of the revered Golden Legion.

“We trust you will continue to be cognizant that Phi Delta Theta is a great and glorious brotherhood and that this greatness depends on the loyalty and devotion of its members. Remember those ever endearing objects which the Founding Fathers, in their great wisdom, planted so securely in *The Bond*: friendship, sound learning, and rectitude. With these principles firmly in mind and with the authority vested in me by the General Council of Phi Delta Theta, I am pleased to recognize you as (a) member(s) of the Silver Legion of our great Fraternity.

“As a symbol of this recognition, I present you with the Silver Legion lapel pin and with it the wishes of your assembled brothers for many more years of involvement and enjoyment in Phi Delta Theta.”

[After all pins have been presented by a sponsor or the speaker, the speaker turns to the audience and continues.]

“It is my sincere honor and privilege to present the newest member(s) of Phi Delta Theta’s Silver Legion.

[Applause. If time permits following the applause, an opportunity may be given to the new Silver Legionnaire(s) to say a few words to the audience.]

“This concludes the Silver Legion Ceremony.”