

Phi Delta Theta Fraternity

Combined Ceremony for the Presentation of the Silver Legion, Golden Legion and Palladian Legion

Setting

Six (6) blue candlesticks evenly spaced on a table. 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. 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 Rodgers, 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: Each year, Phi Delta Theta is proud to honor Brothers on certain special anniversaries of their initiation into our great Brotherhood. The Silver Legion recognizes 25 year members and the Golden Legion honors 50 year members. The Palladian Legion recognizes our most senior members in 5 year increments beginning with their 55th year of membership continuing to their 75th year.

Brothers in The Bond and friends of Phi Delta Theta, we pause at this moment to do honor to those Brothers who are with us this evening and who signed The Bond twenty-five 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 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 or another appropriate selection.) 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: “Εισαυερ ουδ εισαυερ”

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 fifty-six years ago to guide their own and the steps of their successors to noble living, not only on the paths of the campus but on the highways of postgraduate life. The ceremony also typifies the rekindling of our loyalty, devotion and gratitude 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.

We shall never 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 twenty-five, fifty or more years ago, memories of those early days may be somewhat vague but not without pleasure as they go back through the years to the chapter hall and there reveal the altar before which they 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 Silver, Golden or Palladian 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 -- for those who accept it genuinely -- makes 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 first summon to this place before us the candidates for the Silver Legion.

[Again, if a choral group is available, have a quiet song sung while the sponsors bring the candidates to the Master of Ceremony.]

Group Sponsor: I have the honor to present as qualified for the Silver Legion, the following Brothers: [**Read alumnus name, chapter, and initiation date.**]

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____

Brothers, 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 members 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.

With this principle 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 members of the Silver Legion. As a symbol of this recognition, I am pleased to present you with the Silver Legion lapel pin.

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

It is my privilege to present the newest members of Phi Delta Theta's Silver Legion.

Master of Ceremony: I now summon to this place before us the candidates for the Golden Legion. [*Again, if a choral group is available, have a quiet song sung while the sponsors bring the candidates to the Master of Ceremony.*]

Individual Sponsors: I have the honor to present as qualified for the Golden Legion, Brother

_____, a member 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, Brothers. [State each name.]

This occasion may stimulate memories of another ceremony in which you participated a half century 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. Therefore, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the General Council, I hereby name you members of the Golden Legion of Phi Delta Theta, in testimony of which you will be presented with these certificates and lapel pins. These items are saturated with the good wishes of your Brothers for long years of health, happiness and further enjoyment in our beloved Fraternity.

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

Master of Ceremony: As Phi Delta Theta's newest Golden Legionnaires, you are invited to offer a few words, if you like, on your experiences as a Brother in the Bond. *[Prior to the ceremony, the recipients will be reminded to keep their comments brief.]*

[After all Golden Legionnaires have finished speaking, they return to their seats.]

Master of Ceremony: To conclude our ceremony this evening, it is my most sincere honor to now summon before us the candidates for the Palladian Legion. *[Again, if a choral group is available, have a quiet song sung while the sponsors bring the candidates to the Master of Ceremony.]*

Group Sponsor: I have the honor to present as qualified for the Palladian Legion, the following Brothers: **[Read alumnus name, chapter, and initiation date in order and grouped by 55 Years, 60 Years, 65 Years, 70 Years, 75 Years.]**

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____

Master of Ceremony: I greet you, Brothers. [State each name.]

It is my privilege to recognize you and the lifetime you have spent in Phi Delta Theta. The Fraternity changed on the day you signed The Bond those many years ago, and it was a change for the better, because you became a part of it.

It is our earnest hope that those ever-endearing principles which the Founding Fathers, in their great wisdom, planted so securely in The Bond: friendship, sound learning, and rectitude have served you well and kept you steadfast.

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 members of the Palladian Legion. As a symbol of this recognition, you will be presented with the Palladian Legion lapel pin.

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

Brothers in The Bond and friends of Phi Delta Theta, please give a final round of applause to all of our Legionnaire honorees. [After the applause.]

This concludes our Legionnaire ceremony.