

Lions Memorial Service District A-15

(Excerpted and adapted by PDG Gus Este
from an original version by the late PDG Lee Rickey)

(one, two, three or more speakers with logical breaks may perform this service)

Introduction (senior lion – DG, PDG, VDG, RC or ZC)

Simple self-introduction, and/or, of additional speakers & lion dignitaries.

A. (first speaker)

Relatives of our dearly departed lion _____, lions and friends. On behalf of Lions International and the lions clubs of District A-15, especially the lions club of _____, may I extend to you, the spouse and relatives - our deepest sympathy.

We pray that God may be with you, and comfort you, during these trying times. Friends and fellow lions, we have gathered here in this time of remembrance of our late colleague in lionism. He/she has gone to that higher plane in the circle of life.

I would bring you no gloom or sadness as we meditate together on his/her passing. His/her place was ready first, and he/she has gone on before us. We could not all start conveniently together, so why should you and I be grieved at this, since we are soon to follow, and we know where to find him/her.

B. (second speaker)

Friends and fellow lions, it is fitting and proper that we who have enjoyed the fellowship and co-operation in lionism of our late lion _____ should mark his/her passing to the great beyond.

(resume of departed lion here)

Lion _____ was well known in Region _____ and in fact all over District A-15 and he/she was highly respected. We will miss his/her presence at our meetings and the contributions and counsel in our programs of service work. We acknowledge the obligation that he/she leaves for us.

C. (first speaker)

The following poem (reminds me so much of) or (was a favourite of) lion _____

(note to reader – either read poem below or use your own - attached)

“An old man going down the highway, came at evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm vast and deep and wide.

The old man crossed in the twilight dim, the sullen stream had no fear for him:
But he turned when on the other side, and built a bridge to span the tide.

‘Old man’ said a fellow traveler near, you’re wasting your strength in building
here,

Your journey will end with this passing day, you never again will pass this way.

You’ve crossed this chasm deep and wide, why build a bridge at eventide?

The builder lifted his old gray head, ‘good friend, in the path I’ve come’ he said,
There followeth after me today, a youth whose feet must pass this way:

A chasm that has been naught to me, to that fair youth may a pitfall be.

He too must cross in the twilight dim, ‘good friend I’m building this bridge for
him”.

Our dearly beloved colleague and friend has built many a bridge and
created visions for others, but we must carry on, each of us with
greater zeal, in order that those things that he/she would have helped
us to achieve will not be left undone.

D. (second speaker)

We seek once more to express the affection that we felt for lion _____ . One who lived our lions code of ethics – of bringing aid to the weak, sympathy to those in distress and help to the blind.

To our fellow lion who has upheld this torch we say: “well done thou good and faithful servant”. Again, to the family and loved ones we extend our sincere heart-felt sympathy. We pray that you may realize every comfort and hope in this time of sorrow.

As friends, relatives and lions, we mourn the passing of our friend, and gather now in solemn mood. We know all things of time must end:

Even what to us seems wholly good.

Fellowship we have had in service, common problems, and belief. Now our hearts are drawn together by the bond of common grief. Each one of us must run the course till he who does all things well, will call us to join our friend who now beyond our seeing dwells. And so, for now, we say farewell and carry on the work below, believing that the time will come, when we once more will say – “hello!”

***let us stand for a moment in silence and let each of us
offer a silent prayer from the heart. (30 seconds)***

E. (first speaker)

Almighty god hear our prayers, spoken and unspoken, and grant us peace everlasting.

-all repeat-

Lord's prayer

File past the coffin and then extend personal condolences to the principle mourners