



NATIONAL SOCIETY
SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF
THE PILGRIMS

Governor General Betsy K. Jones

RITUAL

AUGUST 2015

Ritual Book Committee
Elder General Reverend Charles Nalls
Governor, New York Branch, Anne Farley

NATIONAL SOCIETY SONS AND
DAUGHTERS OF THE PILGRIMS

RITUAL

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OPENING A MEETING

ELDER: Let us affirm America's colonial heritage secured to us by those men and women who by sacrifice, faith and courage wrought at once a free Church and a free State. Let us renew our purpose to guard this legacy from ignorance, luxury and vice; by extolling civic virtue, purity of the home, the supremacy of just laws and the sacredness of the ballot; through temperate and Godly living; and by cultivating mutual respect with all citizens.

RESPONSE: "Land of our Fathers: Ours to preserve. Ours to transmit. Liberty in Union; now and forever."

ELDER: Let us pledge loyalty to our country and its flag.

RESPONSE: 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.

ELDER: Let us recall the broad and just principles upon which our Nation was founded.

RESPONSE: I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign

States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I, therefore, believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag and to defend it against all enemies.

ELDER: Let us invoke the God of our Fathers, that He may continue to guide and sustain us.

RESPONSE: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

OBJECT OF THE SOCIETY

The object of this Society shall be philanthropic, religious, educational, and scientific:

To perpetuate the memory, and to foster and promote the principles and virtues of the Pilgrims; to commemorate publicly at stated times principal events in the history of the Pilgrims, and to erect durable memorials to historic men, women, and events;

To encourage the study and research of Pilgrim history, especially as related to the foundation of civil government on the principles of religious freedom;

To foster and establish such departments of study and of organization as shall seem best to promote social rights, civic virtue, industrial freedom, political equality, the supremacy of just laws, the value and sacredness of the ballot, the purity of the home, temperate and godly living, and the dependence of individuals, communities, states and nations on the guidance of Almighty God, as taught by the Pilgrims.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

GOVERNOR: The officers to be installed please come forward and line-up in the order in which you are listed in the Bylaws.

ELDER: You have been duly elected to an office in the _____ Branch, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims. You are accepting the responsibility of fulfilling the duties of your office and working with the members to further the Object of the Society. The members have expressed their confidence and faith in you. Your acceptance assures the members of your dedication and your willingness to serve the members and the Society. If you accept the office to which you have been duly elected, please raise your right hand and respond to the following questions in the affirmative with "I do."

ELDER: Do you promise faithfully to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America and to seek its observance by others?

RESPONSE: I do.

ELDER: Do you promise faithful loyalty to the Bylaws of the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, and to the Bylaws of the _____ Branch?

RESPONSE: I do.

ELDER: Do you promise faithfully to perform the duties and responsibilities of your office to the best of your ability and understanding, God being your helper?

RESPONSE: I do.

ELDER: You may lower your hand. Will the members of the _____ Branch please rise?

You have heard the vows of your newly-elected officers. There is a part each of you must take to assure a successful term of office. Please raise your right hand.

Do you, too, promise faithfully to uphold the Constitution of the United States of America, the Bylaws of the National Society and the Bylaws of the _____ Branch?

RESPONSE: I do.

ELDER: Do you further promise to cooperate with all your officers to the best of your ability, God being your helper?

RESPONSE: I do.

ELDER: You may lower your hand. That which is gone out of your lips you shall observe and do according as you have vowed unto the Lord your God. —*Deuteronomy 23:23*

Let us pray: Almighty God, we beseech You, with Your gracious favor to behold these your servants, who have been duly elected to office in the _____Branch, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, and who now accept the responsibility of leadership. Grant them wisdom and understanding and the desire to serve with unfailing loyalty. Unite them and the members so that the work of the Society may excel in its endeavors. We humbly pray that all we do will reflect our love for You. With grateful hearts we ask in Your Holy Name. *Amen.*

DEDICATION OF A MEMBER'S GRAVE MARKER

RITUAL - OPENING A MEETING

GOVERNOR: We, the member of the _____ Branch, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, meet today to honor and pay loving tribute to the memory of _____(name of deceased).

His/her dedication to the objectives of our Society has inspired all of us in our daily work. A tangible tribute to his/her service is this grave marker approved by the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims. An intangible tribute to _____(name of deceased) is our commitment to continue his/her pursuit of excellence in all endeavors.

ELDER: Let us pray: We thank You, Lord, for the joys of earthly companionship; for the enrichments and blessings that grow out of united service; for the life of our friend, whose interests were like our own, we give You special thanks. We ask Your blessing upon every good influence of his/her life, upon every good cause with which he/she was identified, and upon those whom he/she loved. Amen.

PERSONAL TRIBUTE (if desired)

GOVERNOR: In the name of the _____ Branch, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims,

this marker is placed in memory of our member
-----.

ELDER: Let us pray: Blessed are they who die in the Lord; for they rest from their labors and their works do follow them. Now may God our Father, who knows and remembers, comfort our hearts by His presence and love. Amen.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS

New members are asked to come forward.

GOVERNOR: By virtue of my office, I welcome you as a new member of the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, and into the _____ Branch. Your eligibility for membership by lineal descent from an immigrant who settled in the 48 contiguous United States before 1700 has been verified by the National Society. The Society is dedicated to perpetuating the memory and fostering and promoting the principles and virtues of the Pilgrims.

You now have the honor and privilege of wearing the insignia of the Society. The official insignia of the Society is a badge that depicts John Alden and Priscilla Mullins on their way to be married at the old Forte Church on Burial Hill. The insignia is suspended from a ribbon of royal blue and gold.

Membership is a responsibility as well as a privilege. We believe in our Society and its purposes, and we must strive to preserve the heritage which is ours, as well as to remember those who gave us this privilege. May your membership in the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims be a long; may your accomplishments in the Branch be outstanding; and may your associations bring you much happiness.

OATH OF MEMBERSHIP

ELDER: Please raise your right hand and respond in the affirmative to the following questions. Do you promise faithful loyalty to the Bylaws of the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims and the _____ Branch, God being your helper?

RESPONSE: I do.

ELDER: Do you promise faithfully to uphold the Constitution of the United States and to respect the Flag of the United States of America, God being your helper?

RESPONSE: I do.

ELDER: Do you promise that at all times you will promote the objectives of the National Society to the best of your ability, God being your helper?

RESPONSE: I do.

ELDER: You may lower your hand.

ELDER: Let us pray: Our Heavenly Father, we lift our hearts in prayer, grateful for the blessings of liberty and for the privilege of membership in the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims. We thank Thee for this/these new member/s who is/are willing to give his/her/their time, thought and talent in service to the National Society. May his/her/their service be pleasing to him/her/them and to Thee. Amen.

***NOTE:** The Governor extends his/her hand in welcome and presents the new member(s) with the Branch Bylaws, Yearbook and/or a token of welcome.*

MEMORIAL SERVICE

PREPARATION FOR MEMORIAL SERVICE

There is no set rule for services of remembrance for departed members of the National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims; however, placing of flowers and candle lighting ceremonies are frequently used. Each ceremony requires a table covered with an appropriate cloth with an open Bible placed upon it and one or two lighted candle(s) signifying the glow of eternal life.

A vase of greenery may be waiting on the table to receive a flower as each deceased member is named. At a branch memorial service, a tribute may be given by an officer or member.

The candle lighting ceremony requires candelabra or candle sticks. This ceremony is only practical for a small number memorialized. There should be a podium where the Elder stands to conduct the ceremony and where each person stands to offer his/her tribute. Each participant resumes his/her seat as he/she completes his/her part of the ceremony.

**SUGGESTED ORDER OF EVENTS FOR
MEMORIAL SERVICE**

With suggested Scripture

LIGHT CANDLE(s)

INVOCATION

ELDER: Almighty God, Father of the whole family in heaven and on earth: Stand by all who sorrow, that, leaning on your strength, they may be upheld, and believe the good news of life beyond life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

ELDER: Friends, with this Service we honor those among us who have died in the recent past. We celebrate their lives, we give thanks for their friendship, their fellowship, and their service to our Society. We have been blessed by our relationship with these dear friends, and we honor their memory today. Please join me in reading Psalm 121.

RESPONSIVE READING

Psalm 121, Lift Up Mine Eyes

I WILL lift up mine eyes unto the hills; * from whence cometh my help?

My help cometh even from the LORD, * who hath made heaven and earth.

He will not suffer thy foot to be moved; * and he that keepeth thee will not sleep.

Behold, he that keepeth Israel * shall neither slumber nor sleep.

The LORD himself is thy keeper; * the LORD is thy defence upon thy right hand;

So that the sun shall not burn thee by day, * neither the moon by night.

The LORD shall preserve thee from all evil; * yea, it is even he that shall keep thy soul.

The LORD shall preserve thy going out, and thy coming in, * from this time forth for evermore.

ELDER: As we read in the Gospel of John, “ I AM the resurrection and the life, saith the Lord: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me, shall never die.”

ALL: They are not dead, who live in hearts they leave behind. In those whom they have blessed, they live a life again.

ELDER: Let us now, with quiet and grateful hearts, remember before God our dear departed friends. They have left our earthly companionship, but they live within our hearts.

PLACING OF FLOWERS, in loving memory, and MEMORIAL TRIBUTES

Branch members, please rise when our members are recognized. You may be seated during the remarks, after the flower is placed.

The Elder places a final flower in memory of all ancestors and departed members.

ELDER: REMEMBER thy servants, O Lord, according to the favour which thou bearest unto thy people, and grant that, increasing in knowledge and love of thee, they may go from strength to strength, in the life of perfect service, in thy heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Ghost, ever, one God, world without end. Amen.

UNTO God's gracious mercy and protection we commit you. The LORD bless you and keep you. The LORD make his face to shine upon you, and be gracious unto you. The LORD lift up his countenance upon you, and give you peace, both now and evermore. AMEN. Now, as our Savior taught, so now we pray:

THE LORD'S PRAYER *in unison.* Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

BENEDICTION

ELDER: Remember friends, “For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore, or die, we are the Lord's. For to this end Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord both of the dead and living.

Romans 14: 7 - 9

ELDER: “Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost.” AMEN

Romans 15: 13

ORDER OF EVENTS FOR DEDICATION OF AN HISTORIC MARKER OR PLAQUE

CALL TO ORDER

ELDER: Members and Friends, we have come to this place to honor the memory of [our beloved ancestors] whose courage and commitment we will never forget.

Eternal God, Creator and Preserver of Nations, we bow in humble thanksgiving for the preservation of our beloved country; grant, we beseech Thee, that the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims gathered here shall bear in mind the noble service which our forefathers gave to these United States. Make us ever mindful of our obligations to them and to all mankind. Direct us this day in all our doings and give us grace to be wise and just, and to further Thy cause of Peace, Charity and Good Will to all nations. Amen.

Alternative 1 – No Color Guard – Ritual for Opening a Meeting

ELDER: Let us affirm America's colonial heritage secured to us by those men and women who by sacrifice, faith and courage wrought at once a free Church and a free State. Let us renew our purpose to guard this legacy from ignorance, luxury and vice; by extolling civic virtue, purity of the home, the supremacy of just laws and the sacredness of the

ballot; through temperate and Godly living; and by cultivating mutual respect with all citizens.

RESPONSE: “Land of our Fathers: Ours to preserve. Ours to transmit. Liberty in Union; now and forever.”

ELDER: Let us pledge loyalty to our country and its flag.

RESPONSE: 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.

ELDER: Let us recall the broad and just principles upon which our Nation was founded.

RESPONSE: I believe in the United States of America as a government of the people, by the people, for the people; whose just powers are derived from the consent of the governed; a democracy in a republic; a sovereign nation of many sovereign States; a perfect Union, one and inseparable; established upon those principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which American patriots sacrificed their lives and fortunes. I, therefore, believe it is my duty to my country to love it, to support its Constitution, to obey its laws, to respect its flag and to defend it against all enemies.

ELDER: Let us invoke the God of our Fathers, that He may continue to guide and sustain us.

RESPONSE: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Alternative 2- With a Color Guard

ELDER: Let us affirm America's colonial heritage secured to us by those men and women who by sacrifice, faith and courage wrought at once a free Church and a free State. Let us renew our purpose to guard this legacy from ignorance, luxury and vice; by extolling civic virtue, purity of the home, the supremacy of just laws and the sacredness of the ballot; through temperate and Godly living; and by cultivating mutual respect with all citizens.

RESPONSE: "Land of our Fathers: Ours to preserve. Ours to transmit. Liberty in Union; now and forever."

PRESENTATION OF THE COLORS

HONORS TO THE COLORS

Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the
United States of America

American's Creed

National Anthem

POSTING OF THE COLORS

ELDER: Let us invoke the God of our Fathers, that He may continue to guide and sustain us.

RESPONSE: Our Father, who art in Heaven, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in Heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil, for Thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION OF HONORED GUESTS

HISTORICAL REMARKS

PRESENTATION BY GOVERNOR: Nothing is really ended until it is forgotten. Whatever is kept in memory still endures. Therefore we, the members of the _____ Branch, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, dedicate this marker in grateful recognition of the significance of this site.

May this marker help to keep alive an appreciation of our heritage from the past. And may the blessing of God rest upon and abide here forever.

Unveiling of the Plaque

ACCEPTANCE OF MARKER: *(if applicable)*

BENEDICTION

ELDER: We give thanks, gracious Lord, for the many blessings granted us by Your grace. May we continue to find inspiration and hope in the deeds and actions of our forefathers whose trust in You fortified their determination to secure our nation. We marked this historic site to preserve a part of our national heritage so that future generations can appreciate what has brought us to this day. May we go forth with praise for our great heritage, firm in the Faith of our Forefathers. We ask God's blessing now and ever more. *Amen.*

DEDICATION OF THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Assembly standing as Colors advance and place right ungloved hand over heart)

ASSEMBLY: The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America

ASSEMBLY: *God Bless America*

GOVERNOR: The Flag of the United States of America is our National Emblem, the symbol of freedom. George Washington, the Father of our Country, said, "It stands for dignity, honor and protection of all who love liberty and equality and who claim the sheltering protection it has always given." These colors are presented by the _____ Branch, National Society Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims, in memory (*honor*) of _____.

This Flag of the United States of America is dedicated to the use of _____ (name of organization). Please remain standing and place your right hand over your heart, and join in the singing of our National Anthem.

ASSEMBLY: *The Star-Spangled Banner*

ELDER: *Let us pray:* Our Heavenly Father, we thank You for our great nation and for the patriots who have defended our country under the Flag of the

United States of America, which embodies red for courage, blue for bravery, and white for purity. May this magnificent National Emblem continue to inspire us and generations to come as we pledge to honor with justice and integrity the freedoms we are ever ready to defend. O Lord, we put our trust in You and ask Your blessing for America and for the Flag of the United States of America. *Amen.*

DEDICATION AT A TREE PLANTING

The interest of the Society in the conservation of the natural resources of the nation inspires us to plant trees. The tree is a symbol of longevity, tranquility, and life itself. It is enduring, symbolic, and will grow stronger, and blossom with life, year after year. The tree will inspire energy, faith, devotion, and courage and carry forward the name of the _____ Branch Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims in a living, vital way that will grow grander in the years to come.

Blessing of the Tree

Creator of life and sustainer of seed and soil, of tree and flower, you have created this world and all that lives in it. It is to You that we come in this prayer of dedication and blessing, for you are the giver of life and the sustainer of all that lives. We come to you to dedicate this tree in memory of Pilgrim ancestors whom you continue to hold in your generous grace. We give you thanks for their lives. May this tree dig deep roots and grow wide branches to bear witness to your abundant love and grace. We ask for your blessing upon this tree. Amen.

Contributed by Dianne Cannestra, Governor, Georgia Branch, from a ceremony performed October 23, 2013

REMARKS FOR A MEMORIAL DAY CEREMONY

It is my honor as Governor of the _____ Branch of the Sons and Daughters of the Pilgrims to participate in this solemn service honoring members of the Armed Forces who gave up their lives for our country and our freedom.

There is no way for us to repay their sacrifices except by living into the principles on which our country was established— freedom, equality, justice and humanity—and by carrying out our duty to our country to love it, to support its constitution, to respect its flag, and to defend it against all enemies.

By living into these principles espoused in the American's Creed, we honor the service and memory of our fallen compatriots. God bless these brave souls who sacrificed all to ensure our liberty.

ELDER: ALMIGHTY God, our heavenly Father, in whose hands are the living and the dead; We give thee thanks for all those thy servants who have laid down their lives in the service of our country. Grant to them thy mercy and the light of thy presence, that the good work which thou hast begun in them may be perfected; through Jesus Christ thy Son our Lord. Amen.

