

## Opening and Closing Ceremonies for Optional Lodge of Sorrow

The Worshipful Master of any North Carolina Lodge may, at the beginning of his term, (his first stated Communication under New Business), or at any time during such term of office, open an Optional Lodge of Sorrow, provided a Master Mason's Lodge shall have first been opened in a regular manner. After the first such opening, no further formality need be followed. If there is a death between election of Officers and their installation, the outgoing Master is responsible for attending to the funeral service.

### Opening Optional Lodge of Sorrow

**Worshipful Master:** Brethren, we will now proceed to open a Lodge of Sorrow. (Three raps). Brother Chaplain, lead our devotion.

**Chaplain:** Grand Architect of the Universe, we of the Masonic Fraternity, having dedicated our lives to the formation of true living stones for Thy Temple, ask Thy blessing on our work that we may be better enabled to serve Thee. May we always work according to Thy grand design. (Response) So mote it be. Amen.

**Worshipful Master:** Brother Senior Warden, it is my order, that a Lodge of Sorrow be now opened for the purpose of paying the last tribute of respect to those Brethren of this Lodge whom death will take from us and for honoring members of other Lodges as an act of courtesy when duly requested. Report this to the Junior Warden in the South, and he to the Brethren that they having due notice thereof may govern themselves accordingly.

**Senior Warden:** Brother Junior Warden, it is the order of the Worshipful Master, that a Lodge of Sorrow be now opened for the purpose of paying the last tribute of respect to those Brethren of this Lodge whom death will take from us and for honoring members of other Lodges as an act of courtesy when duly requested. Report this to the Craft that they having due notice thereof may govern themselves accordingly.

**Junior Warden:** Brethren, it is the order of the Worship Master, that a Lodge of Sorrow be now opened for the purpose of paying the last tribute of respect to those Brethren of this Lodge whom death will take from us and for honoring members of other Lodges as an act of courtesy when duly requested. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

**Worshipful Master:** Brethren, let us apply the symbolic tools of Masonry to our daily lives that we may be tried and found to be true as living stones and thus render ourselves worthy for that house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. Accordingly I declare this Lodge of Sorrow open, to remain open until my successor shall have been duly elected; and to be closed as my last order of business as Worshipful Master of this Lodge. (One Rap) Brother Junior Deacon, inform the Tyler.

**Junior Deacon:** Brother Tyler, this Lodge of Sorrow is open in due form. Take due notice thereof and govern yourself accordingly.

(NOTE: The Junior Deacon and Tyler use the usual method to open and close the door)

## **Closing Optional Lodge of Sorrow**

The Worshipful Master of any North Carolina Lodge shall at the end of the term for which he was elected (the last Stated Communication of his term under Old Business) close the Lodge of Sorrow which has previously been opened during his tenure as Worshipful Master.

**Worshipful Master:** Brethren, we will now proceed to close this Lodge of Sorrow. (Three raps)

**Worshipful Master:** Brother Secretary, read the names of our Departed Brethren since this Lodge of Sorrow was opened. (The names are read)

**Worshipful Master:** Brother Chaplain, lead our devotion.

**Chaplain:** Grand Architect of the Universe, while we mourn the passing of our departed Brethren, let us learn well the lessons of death. Make us aware that time is passing swiftly and this separation from our departed Brethren is of short duration. Let the loss that we have sustained increase our affections for those who are yet spared. (Response) So Mote It Be. Amen.

**Worshipful Master:** Brother Senior Warden, it is my order that the labors of this Lodge of Sorrow be now ended, to be resumed at the will and pleasure of the incoming Master and his Officers. Report this to the Junior Warden in the South, and he to the Brethren, that they having due notice thereof may govern themselves accordingly.

**Senior Warden:** Brother Junior Warden, it is the order of the Worshipful Master that the labors of this Lodge of Sorrow be now ended, to be resumed at the will and pleasure of the incoming Master and his Officers. Report this to the Craft that they having due notice thereof may govern themselves accordingly.

**Junior Warden:** Brethren, it is the order of the Worshipful Master that the labors of this Lodge of Sorrow be now ended, to be resumed at the will and pleasure of the incoming Master and his Officers. Take due notice thereof and govern yourselves accordingly.

**Worshipful Master:** Brethren, may we be ever aware of our approaching fate as this alone can bring seemingly major crises into proper perspective, thereby creating that attitude of peace and harmony for which we strive. I now declare this Lodge of Sorrow closed in due form. (One Rap) Brother Junior Deacon, inform the Tyler.

**Junior Deacon:** Brother Tyler, the Lodge of Sorrow is closed.

(NOTE: The Junior Deacon and Tyler use the usual method to open and close the door)