

## Tuckahoe Lodge Memorial Service

*Accessories used for the service: A small table, draped in black, placed southwest of the altar with one white candle. To be placed by the Wardens: one white carnation, all of the Master Masons working tools, a white leather apron, and one sprig of evergreen are required. The overhead lights are extinguished; the Speaker approaches the small draped table and lights the lone candle, and moves to the podium.*

**Speaker:** My Brethren: this lighted taper is in loving memory of thirteen brethren who served Tuckahoe Lodge well and faithfully during their lifetime and have answered a summons to enter into the presence and safekeeping of God in the Celestial Lodge. For many years it has been our custom in this Lodge to assemble, and for a brief time set aside the business of the Lodge, and take the opportunity to pay our last tribute of respect to those Brethren whose span of mortal years came to an end during the past year, and to honor the memory of all those who have laid down the working tools of life, and entered into the joy of their creator. In keeping with this custom, we have assembled tonight to console one another in this hour of remembrance, and to ponder within our hearts the significance of this occasion.

One by one they pass away, the Brothers of our Craft that we adopt; they are our Companions of Choice. These Brethren, whose hand we have clasped in the bonds of fellowship have passed from our sight, and we know that we will not meet them on earth again. Tonight we remember our departed brethren for the strong grip of friendship, for their pledge of our defense, and their vow of aid and wise counsel. Remember them for their every virtue and for their every evidence of goodness. God has claimed their souls from their mortal remains of this earth, and His will is now accomplished. Those whom we honor tonight are now ready for their final degree.

It is our desire for one last time, to call out and remember the names of those whose service to this Lodge has been cut short by the ever-advancing scythe of time. The Wardens will advance West of the altar. Brother Secretary, read the name and date of passing of those whom we honor tonight.

Samuel Clavis Smith 7/23/20  
Jack Kelly Johnston, Jr 12/24/2020  
Augustus Benton Chafin, Jr. 1/1/2021  
Robert Lloyd Clifton 1/11/2021  
Jerry Wayne Clark 1/22/21  
Norman Brinkley Wyatt 2/2/21  
Arthur Bernard Gregory, Sr 2/25/21  
Clarence Edward Whitley 3/20/21  
Harry Eugene Franklin 5/7/2021  
Walter Woodrow Brooking, Jr 7/9/21  
Herbert Carter Clevinger 8/10/21  
Jason Daniel Garrett 8/25/21  
Everett Crawford Irving 10/4/21

*The Secretary reads the name and date of death of the brethren to be honored. As the first name is read, the Sr. Warden places a white carnation on the table. As names are read the Jr. and Sr. Warden alternately place a working tool on the table for each name. For the last two names, the Jr. Warden places a white apron and a sprig of evergreen on the table. When all items have been placed on the table, the Wardens return to their stations.*

**Speaker:** On the table before you, are the *symbolic tools and implements* of Freemasons, the meaning of which was explained to each of us as we began our Masonic journey. To those we have added *a lambskin*, or white leather Apron. It represents innocence and is acknowledged around the world as the time-honored badge of a Freemason. It is older than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, and carries with it more honor than the Star and Garter, when worthily worn. By it Masons are reminded of the universal dominion of Death...death from which we cannot escape. The arm of Friendship cannot prevent his coming, nor can the wealth gathered in this world be used to purchase our release. To a Mason, *the evergreen* is an emblem of our faith in the immortality of the Soul. The evergreen leaves are symbolic of our conviction that life will indeed continue to flourish even after death, and that one day we will be united in that house with many mansions, eternal in the heavens.

As a token of remembrance and our heartfelt thanks, this evergreen is offered tonight in memory of all members of the US military who have served and paid the ultimate price in the ongoing efforts to protect and preserve the freedoms that we all enjoy. May they rest in peace. Brother Chaplain, offer our evening devotion.

**Chaplain:** The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away. Blessed be the name of the Lord. Thou, O God, art the creator and sustainer of this universe and all life within its limitless boundaries. Thou has given us life, and determined the number of our days and months. We acknowledge Thee in this sweetly solemn moment, remembering our fallen Brethren as we honor their memory. Bless us in these moments that we shall take from them renewed inspiration, courage and dedication to our faith and to our Masonic principles. We pray for those whose hearts are heaviest and who in this moment need Thee more than ever. Guide them and bless them and lead them into that unfaltering trust that life does not end with death; that the Father who made us all will indeed care for us beyond the bounds of our vision. We pray for a renewal of the gifts of faith, patience, and enduring love in all of us. Help us to walk amid the things of this world with eyes wide open to the beauty and glory of all things eternal. Amen. So mote it be.

**Speaker:** What we know as Death is but a lasting sleep...a release from the strife of this world. Our brethren have gone from earthly life...to an eternal Life. Tonight, when we mix again with the world, take with you in your heart the memory of those whom we honored and remembered tonight. May the *light* of God surround you, may the *love* of God enfold you, the *power* of God protect you, and the *presence* of God watch over you. Peace be with you, now and forever more. So mote it be. Amen.