



BETA THETA PI BURIAL SERVICE

This ceremony is located in Beta's Ritual Book on page 135.

The burial service may be performed with the permission of the deceased brother or of a close family member. The presiding brother should make arrangements with the family members and with the funeral officiant as to the timing of the performance of the service. It is thought that the service should be performed upon arrival at the burial site and prior to the formal service of the deceased brother.

The only Beta Theta Pi addition to the brother's formal funeral service should be the placing, if desired by the family or the brother, of the flag of Beta Theta Pi, to be ordered from the Administrative Office at beta.org/flag and placed in military fashion over the coffin of the deceased brother during the funeral service and during the service at the burial site.

THE SERVICE

Presiding Brother: Will all members of Beta Theta Pi Fraternity please join me in forming the mystic circle around the final resting place of our dear departed brother.

Presiding Brother: In memory of our cherished brother, _____, ever treasured in our hearts and of all those faithful men who, in years on earth, loved and labored for Beta Theta Pi, I ask you to stand with bowed head for a moment of perfect silence remembering our friend and brother, thinking of fraternal friendship, renewing vows of fraternal fidelity, and remaining standing until, with sentiment and supplication, the stillness is broken.

Directions: *After a moment of silence it is most effective if another person, previously arranged, repeats the following statement:*

"Today we gather to honor the memory of those who being dead still speak and to give thanks for their good examples and brave testimonies.

May we vow to continue their work in the building up a Fraternity that recognizes mutual assistance in the honorable labors and aspirations of life, devotion to the cultivation of the intellect, unsullied friendship and unfaltering fidelity as objects worthy of the highest aim and purpose of associated effort.

In this hour of quiet thought and solemn joy:

We remember they passed on to us the institution of our Great and Good Fraternity.

We remember their contributions, their sacrifices, their joys, and their sorrows.

We remember the lessons they taught us and the times when we took counsel together.

We remember they were once celebrated as new members among friends, but now together we mourn their loss as one family.

We remember them in our hearts today and always."

Presiding Officer: Will the brothers of Beta Theta Pi now join with me in singing the Beta Doxology.

Bless now, O God on high,
Bless Beta Theta Pi:
Let naught of wrong
Sully our mystic gem.
Let not the wreath be dim;
Then shall praise be to Him
To whom our song.

Directions: *If a flag has been used in the service the presiding brother, together with one other brother, will remove the flag from the coffin, fold it in the military manner or in the manner of folding the American flag, and present the flag to the deceased brother's spouse or next of kin.*