



## **PUBLIC CHAPTER OPENING AND CLOSING**

This revision has been prepared under the authority and direction of DeMolay International by the Committee on Ritual and Regalia.

**SEVENTH EDITION**

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## PUBLIC CHAPTER OPENING AND CLOSING

*This optional ceremony is designed for events such as honor conferrals, where the Chapter room must be set up with its paraphernalia, and where the ceremonies being performed do not include any formal opening or closing. Chapters may choose to utilize it to more fully explain the goals of the Order of DeMolay, when visitors are present who are attending a DeMolay ceremony for the first time. Consequently, it should be made as impressive as possible, and should only be performed by a team of Active DeMolays.*

*As an example of its usage, if the day's ceremonies include the Legion of Honor Investiture and the Chevalier Investiture, this ceremony could be incorporated as shown in the following sequence:*

1. *Public Chapter Opening as given in this ceremony.*
2. *Transition to the Chevalier Investiture. The Opening team would take seats on the sidelines, and the Chevalier team would change the room setup as necessary to prepare for its ceremony.*
3. *The Chevalier team would enter, and perform the ceremony.*
4. *Transition to the Legion of Honor Investiture. The Chevalier team would take seats on the sidelines, and the Legion of Honor team would change the room setup as necessary to prepare for its ceremony (for instance, informally extinguishing the candles).*
5. *The Legion of Honor team would enter, and perform the ceremony.*
6. *Remarks and other presentations.*
7. *Transition to the Closing. The Legion of Honor team would take seats on the sidelines, and the Closing team would take their stations.*
8. *Public Chapter Closing as given in this ceremony.*

*Required Parts: Master Councilor: M.C., Senior Councilor: S.C., Junior Councilor: J.C., Senior Deacon: S.D.  
Required Paraphernalia: Gavel on M.C.'s pedestal; Holy Bible closed on Altar; school books on pedestal of M.C.; National flag in a standard as indicated on Diagram One; seven candlesticks with candles arranged as indicated on Diagram One.*

*Optional Paraphernalia: Altar cloth; Chapter banner placed in standard as indicated on Diagram One; Altar flowers; pedestal covers.*

*Officers line up single file at door in this order: M.C., S.C., J.C., S.D. M.C. leading moves from point A to F G J forming triangle as listed below:*

M.C.

S.C.      S.D.      J.C.

*They kneel for a moment of silent prayer.*

**M.C.**    Amen.

*Officers rise and M.C. moves J K V U X, faces West.*

**M.C.**    \* (rap)

*Simultaneously S.C. and S.D. face left and J.C. faces right. They move to their respective walking bands and then to their stations.*

**M.C.**    \* (rap)

*All except M.C. sit down.*

Friends, on behalf of ..... Chapter, Order of DeMolay, we welcome you most cordially to this special occasion. It may not be out of place at this time to explain briefly the general purposes of our Order, to which only young men between the ages of 12 and 21 years are eligible. While we have secret signs, words and modes of recognition, we have no secrets from the world so far as our central purposes are concerned. We are banded together for mutual improvement, to help each other live clean, manly, upright, patriotic lives, which will be a credit to our parents and friends, and which will merit the commendation of all good men. In our meetings we inculcate only principles which are in harmony with this exalted

purpose and in our daily lives we seek to carry them into effect. We feel we can rightly bespeak for our Order in general and for ourselves in particular the hearty assistance of all good men and women.

**M.C.** Brother Senior Deacon, you will attend at the Altar.

*Suggested music cue:*

*S.D. moves X Z M Candle 1, lights it and then lights others in order crossing between the Altar and the East as he does so. M.C. begins following speech as S.D. begins to light Candle 1. M.C. and S.D. coordinate speech and actions so that Candle 7 is lighted just as M.C. concludes speech.*

Our forefathers were well aware that religious liberty, represented by the Holy Bible, civil liberty, represented by the flag of our county, and intellectual liberty, represented by the school books, must go hand in hand in order to be effective. Around these bulwarks, the Order of DeMolay places seven candles which are symbolic of the seven cardinal virtues of a DeMolay – filial love, reverence for sacred things, courtesy, comradeship, fidelity, cleanness and patriotism. As the light from these candles permeates this Chapter room, let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father Who is in Heaven.

*S.D. moves from Candle 7 J K Z X, faces West.*

**M.C.** \* (rap)

*S.D. sits down.*

**M.C.** Brother Senior Councilor, you will open the Holy Bible on the Altar.

\* \* \* (3 raps)

*All stand. S.C. moves X J, faces East, kneels without touching the Altar, opens Bible reverently and slowly, rises without touching the Altar.*

**S.C.** We open the Holy Bible, the foundation of our faith in everlasting days, upon the Altar as a symbol of the religious liberty which is the birthright of all people. Upon that Altar it is not the emblem of any creed or the repository of any system of theology, but the word of the one living and true God, Whose universal Fatherhood teaches the inescapable lesson of the brotherhood of all His sons. Without the opportunity to worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences, our freedom would be a mockery and therefore, as the foundation of all our liberties, we place the word of God upon our Altar and I solemnly enjoin the members of this Chapter ever to walk in the light of its teachings and never to meet save around its opened pages.

*S.C. moves J X, faces East.*

**M.C.** Brother Junior Councilor, you will see that the flag of our country is presented at the Altar.

**J.C.** Brother Senior Deacon, you will present the flag of our country at the Altar.

Brethren and friends, you will stand at attention and salute our flag.

*The following instructions, including the Pledge of Allegiance, are specific to the United States of America. Other countries should adapt these instructions according to their laws and customs.*

*Standing at attention means that a person stands with head and body erect facing the flag. As the flag moves, the head and body are moved so that the person always faces the flag. S.D. carries the flag with left hand high – right hand low – on the flag staff, with the staff extending past his right side. S.D. should tilt the flag forward such that he may carry it comfortably (see Figure 5). An explanation of the United States Flag Code is given in Appendix C.*

*The salute is defined as follows: Placing the right hand over the heart with fingers joined. A person (other than one in military uniform) who is covered removes his headgear and holds it over his heart with his right hand.*

*As S.D. picks up flag, all present salute. The salute is dropped when S.D. stops West of the Altar.*

*The same salute is made during the pledge to the flag. The same salute is again made when the S.D. starts to leave the Altar and is dropped when he has replaced the flag in its stand. S.D. does not salute the flag at any time.*

*Only citizens of the United States should salute and recite the pledge.*

*Suggested music cue:*

*S.D. moves from flag standard Z T F G, faces Altar and moves toward it until he is about 6 feet from point J. All except S.D. repeat in unison the pledge to the flag. It is strongly urged that the pledge be followed immediately with the singing of the National anthem or another appropriate patriotic song. S.D. does not sing.*

**J.C.** Brethren and friends, join me in saluting and pledging allegiance to the flag.

**ALL** 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.

*Suggested music cue: National anthem or other patriotic song.*

**J.C.** Brethren and friends, let us sing our opening ode.

*J.C. moves X Z N O, faces West.*

**J.C.** We present the flag at the Altar as a symbol of the civil liberty without which there could be no religious freedom. It is especially appropriate that this flag should be committed to the custody of these young men, so soon to become the citizens by whose patriotism its honor must be defended, whether on the fields of battle or on the perpetual battlefields where good citizenship wages war with bad. In all the crises of the nation's history, we have called upon our young manhood and thank God it has never failed to respond. Young men have fought every war our country has ever waged and the red upon that glorious banner is dyed a richer hue with the precious blood the nation's youth has shed. We, therefore, present it at our Altar as a sentinel to guard us while we worship and I solemnly enjoin the members of this Chapter never to meet save beneath its protecting folds, and outside the Chapter walls, ever to live worthy of that sacred banner.

*J.C. moves O N Z X, faces North. After J.C. is at his station, S.D. does about face, moves G H V to flag standard, replaces flag, then moves X, faces West.*

**M.C.** \* (rap)

*All except M.C. sit down. M.C., carrying school books, moves X U O, faces West, places school books on Northeast corner of Altar.*

**M.C.** From the station in the East, emblematic of the morning years of life, we place the school books on the Altar as a symbol of the intellectual liberty, without which there could be neither civil nor religious freedom. They are particularly emblematic of the great public school system of our country, the foundation of that universal enlightenment which is the crowning glory of our institutions. Devoted championship of our public schools is a cardinal teaching of the Order of DeMolay. We are unalterably opposed to the same building housing a school, a church and a seat of civil government. Civil, religious and intellectual liberty are the three sources of our country's greatness, but they must stand alone, upon separate foundations and under separate roofs. These books, representative of those being carried to and from the public schools by millions of boys and girls each day, are just as vital symbols of our liberties as the Holy Bible, which is the rule and guide of our faith, or the flag which protects the church, the school and the seat of civil power. We, therefore, place these books upon the Altar and I solemnly enjoin the members of this Chapter ever to stand unswervingly for the protection and perpetuity of the free public schools, the citadel of our safety and the source of the only real freedom possible in a government of the people, by the people and for the people.

*M.C. moves O U X, faces West.*

**M.C.** I now declare this Chapter duly open.

\* (rap)

*All except M.C. sit down.*

*If appropriate, the M.C. may hand the gavel to the next speaker. The Officers may informally take seats on the sidelines.*

*At the conclusion of the other ceremonies, the Officers informally return to their positions for the closing ceremony.*

**M.C.** Brother Senior Deacon, you will attend at the Altar.

*S.D. moves X Z T I J, faces East, kneels without touching the Altar, reverently and slowly closes the Bible, rises without touching the Altar, then proceeds to candle 1, extinguishes it, then extinguishes the others in order crossing between the Altar and East as he does so, then without kneeling removes school books, then moves J K V U, places school books on M.C.'s pedestal, then moves U Z X, faces West.*

**M.C.** I now declare this Chapter closed.

\* (rap)

*The remainder of the ceremony is optional, at the team's discretion.*

**M.C.** The Officers will now retire.

\* \* (2 raps)

*Officers rise. M.C. moves X Z U T I J, faces East. As soon as M.C. turns in toward the triangle from the walking band, simultaneously S.C., J.C., and S.D. leave their stations and go to their positions in the triangle, with S.C. following S.D. When all Officers have reached their positions, they kneel for a moment of silent prayer.*

**M.C.** Amen.

*Officers rise. M.C. faces right, moves J I A. As soon as he reaches the walking band, simultaneously S.C., J.C., and S.D. face right, and move to the walking band and to point A.*