

Eleven O'clock Service

(Promptly at the hour of Eleven O'Clock, whatever may be the Order of Business at the time, it shall be the duty of the Leading Knight (or, if absent, the member who is occupying the station) to ask the Exalted Ruler: "What is the hour?" The following Ceremonial will then be conducted.):

(The Exalted Ruler gives three raps with the Gavel (-O-O-O-), and all the members present arise and assume the Sign of Fidelity, as the lights are dimmed)

NOTE: *On such occasions as may be fitting, this Ceremony may be altered as follows:*
EXALTED RULER: *It is the hour when*

EXALTED RULER: **(or another)** "It is the hour of eleven when all Elks cease from their labours and again renew within their hearts their obligations to each other with special regard to our absent and departed Members. Elkdom, as an Order, seeks ever to exemplify the noble traits of the stately Elk, from which it takes its name. The Elk, unlike the more ferocious animals of the forest, while fleet of foot and ever ready to fight in defence of its weaker members, is naturally docile and lives in peace with all mankind. So we teach all to be quick to hear and strong in responding to the calls of fraternal service such as the circumstances of life may bring upon us. We are bound together by the ties of a great fraternity which seeks to make life sweeter, people better and the world happier. The faults of our Members we write upon the sands of the sea, where they may be quickly effaced and forgotten while their virtues we inscribe upon the tablets of our hearts so that we may realize in a larger degree the living meaning of the Brotherhood of Man.

AULD LANG SYNE

"Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

And never brought to mind?

Should auld acquaintance be forgot,

and days of auld lang syne?"

CHORUS:

"For auld lang syne, my dear

For auld lang syne,

We'll take a cup o'kindness yet

For auld lang syne.

(The Exalted Ruler gives one rap (-O-) with the Gavel, and those in attendance resume their seats)

NOTE: *When conducting this at a social function, it is recommended that the officiating officer request non-members and guests to rise and stand quietly with the members. They should be reminded that this is a serious memorial ceremony; that all members must assume the Sign of Fidelity during the spoken portion of the ceremony and that, during the singing of Auld Lang Syne, all present will assume the traditional crossed-hands position, clasping the hands of those on either side, and standing quietly. At the conclusion of the singing, hands are to be dropped quietly to the sides without cheering or other unseemly actions.*