



## **District 26-M5**

### **2009-2010 ROSE CEREMONY PROCEDURES**

**Background:** A Rose Ceremony is one way a Lions Club has to pay honor, respect, and tribute to a fellow Lion who has passed away.

**Procedures:** When a member passes away, the club President may contact the next of kin family member and offer the club's wishes to conduct the ceremony to honor the departed Lion; in all cases the family must consent to or request a rose ceremony to take place. Once this request is confirmed, all members of the Club should be notified of the location, date, and time of the ceremony.

If the deceased Lion was a member (past or present) of the district cabinet, or was well known throughout the district, then the District Governor should be notified.

**(IMPORTANT):** The deceased Lion's family may or may not want a large number of Lions attending the ceremony. At times, a small contingency is more impressive than a large. The family's wishes must always be our guidance in this matter.

**Ceremony Actions:** If a ceremony is going to take place, the deceased Lions club should obtain enough long stem roses for each Lion in attendance. If there is a large number of Lions, it is appropriate to reuse some of the roses. It may also be appropriate to have just one rose, to be used by the presiding Lion member of the ceremony.

All attending Lions should gather in an area of the funeral home, about 15 minutes prior to the start of the Rose Ceremony. At this time they will be lined up and the roses distributed. The procession should be led by the Club President, followed by the attending club members, District Officers by order of office (highest first), then other Lions in attendance.

A presiding Lion should enter the parlor, first and introduce themselves to the family and friends gathered in the parlor. Then explain who we are, why we are there, and short review of the conduct of the ceremony.

- - We are fellow Lions, members of the deceased Lions Club, and other Clubs who are here to pay a final tribute to our fellow Lion.
  
- - The Lions will enter the room, each carrying a single rose, representing our love for our fellow Lion. The Lions will approach the casket, pause for a moment, and then place the rose in a vase, at the head of the casket.
  
- The Lions will then stand in an area for the remainder of the ceremony.



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- - The presiding Lion (or another Lion) should read a short bio of the deceased member's history in Lionism.
- - A reading of the poem, titled, "The Rose", can be read. Sometimes a copy of this poem is given to the family. It may be appropriate for the club to purchase a plaque engraved with the poem and presented to the family.
- - A short prayer can be offered. This should be in compliance with the family.
- - At the close of the ceremony, the presiding Lion should thank the family and friends for allowing Lions to be present to honor one of their members. The presiding Lion, followed by the other Lions should then approach the family, extend their sympathies, and then depart the room and or return to their seats for the remaining services to take place.

**Suggestion:** As each Lion enters the following dialogue may be used by the presiding Lion:

It is with great honor that we present to Lion: \_\_\_\_\_ these/this Rose(s).  
A Rose is one of the most beautiful flowers God created. The soft, delicate petals remind each of us how precious and fragile our lives are. Each petal has its own shape, size, color and texture. Each rose is as individual as we are. Some are strong and loud, others are soft and meek. But not one is more beautiful or special, than another.

God made each of them to his stipulation, just as he made us. The leaves represent growth; some have grown tremendously, others not as much. We discover talents we didn't know we possess. We overcame fears, proved things to ourselves, and we learned to accept disappointments, but this never stops us. Just as Lion \_\_\_\_\_ kept going with his/her head held high; we chose to move forward seeking higher levels of service, just as the rose's leaves point toward the heavens with grace.

The stem represents the strength and power of endurance of the Rose and survives longer than the leaves and petals. Of all, the stem is most important...because without it, you couldn't have the growth of leaves or the beauty of the petals.

Now, we come to the thorns. Many believe the thorn is a flaw, however, the thorn represents challenge, challenge to try new things, explore new ideas, do what others said we couldn't do, and do what we thought was impossible. At times we may feel defeated, just as the thorns hurt when they stick, but it is only temporary. The thorn is only a flaw if we choose it to be. It could be God reminding us that with him, anything is possible.



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When we look at the rose, the petals, leaves, stem and thorns, we will remember how special Lion \_\_\_\_\_ was to all of us.

May you rest in peace with God's blessing. All the Lions of this State, the Districts and especially our club, the \_\_\_\_\_ Lions Club, will miss you, just like we miss the roses when they are not in bloom.

We would like to present these roses to you Lion \_\_\_\_\_ and to your family to remind us all of your life of service as a dedicated Lion.

These are just guidelines. Nothing is etched in stone and flexibility is recommended. This can be a very formal ceremony, or an informal ceremony, which ever fits the situation. **REMEMBER,** this is not a religious service, nor should it replace any other service that the family desires.



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#### **A Rose**

*It is only a tiny Rosebud, a flower of God's design;  
But I cannot unfold the petals, with these clumsy hands of mine.  
The secret of unfolding flowers is not known to such as I;  
The flower that God opens so sweetly, in my hands would fade and die.  
If I cannot unfold a Rosebud, this flower of God's design;  
Then how can I think I have wisdom, to unfold this life of mine.  
So I'll trust in him for his leading, each moment of every day;  
And I look to him for his guidance, each step of the pilgrim way.  
For the pathway that lies before me, my heavenly father knows;  
I'll trust him to unfold the moments, just as he unfolds the Rose.*