

ROSE CEREMONY

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

When a member passes away, and the family requests or allows a rose ceremony to take place, then 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. **(REMEMBER,** 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 should always be our guidance in this matter.)

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 is also appropriate to have just one rose, to be used by the presiding Lion member of the ceremony.

All Lions should gather in an area of the funeral home, about 15 minutes prior to the start of the 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 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 how we are going to do it.

1. - 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.
2. - The Lions will enter the room, each caring a single rose, representing our love for our fellow Lion. The Lions will approach the casket, pause for a moment, 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.
3. - The presiding Lion (or another Lion) should read a short bio of the deceased members history in Lionism.
4. - A reading of the poem, titled, "The Rose", can be read. Sometimes a copy of this poem is given to the family. A plaque is available to be purchased and presented to the family.
5. - A short prayer can be offered. This should be in compliance with the family.
6. - At the close of the ceremony, the presiding Lion should thank the family and friends for allowing us to be present. The presiding Lion, followed by the other Lions should then approach the family, extend their sympathies, and then leave the room.

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.

ROSE CEREMONY



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.*