

Founders' Day Ceremony

To Our Founders

Time: 10 minutes

This ceremony lights a candle in remembrance of each our founders.

Advance preparation:

- Obtain six electric/battery candles
- Arrange six members or alumnae to serve as speakers
 - The speaking parts should be practiced in advance

Ceremony

VPAR or president recites:

"To our founders:

Beloved founders in your wisdom deep, you chose the way
our feet shall keep:

And though we slip, we turn our footsteps back, to gain the wider vision on the
track,

Which leads our sisterhood to loyalty; 'One Heart, One Way'—may this
our standard be.

'One Heart, One Way'—four words forever new, We Sigmas
say them all the world through;

And if we meet, or if close home we stay, Four
words repeat—'One Heart, One Way.'"

-Lillian M. Perkins, Omicron, past national historian

Speaker one recites:

"I light this candle for Elizabeth Gorham Hoag, who died so young, toward the end of her sophomore year, when she was only 18 years old. With dark curly hair and dark eyes, she was a laughing woman, artistic and musical. It was she who designed our first emblem, she who often read, played and sang to her sisters. She was loved by all who knew her; mourned by all her classmates. We remember Lizzie Hoag now."

Light first candle.

Speaker two recites:

"I light this candle for Mary Low Carver, scholar, wife and mother. Marrying a Colby man, Leonard D. Carver, her career included pioneering in library science, lecturing and writing, as well as gladly serving as advisor to the young Sigma Kappa Sorority, as the minutes of the early years show. Boston Sigma Kappas remember her as tall and slender with curly white hair. Though increasingly deaf, she read lips easily, and the sparkle in her dark eyes never dimmed. She was the first woman to graduate from Colby College, and the only founder to give a daughter to Sigma Kappa. We remember Mary Low Carver now."

Light second candle.

Speaker three recites:

"I light this candle for Ida Mae Fuller Pierce. Forced to leave college in her junior year, she went to Kansas to find drier climate for her asthma. There she married Dr. Jonathan B. Pierce. After his death, her business abilities helped her organize a hotel for girls, participate in relief work in San Francisco after the earthquake and fire in 1906, and into the Red Cross and food conservation lectures during World War I. She was a lively, witty woman, and the practical voice in the early deliberations of the Sorority. We remember Ida Mae Fuller Pierce now."

Light third candle.

Speaker four recites:

"I light this candle for Frances Elliott Mann Hall. Dreamy and thoughtful, she was responsible for the name and the ideals behind Sigma Kappa; she founded our open motto. She, too, left college in her junior year, but found a husband at Colby, George Washington Hall, Colby 1975, and was proud to be the first Sigma Kappa to be married. A teacher before entering college, her career in the education field led her to Washington, D.C. and the founding of a famous school there. Washington Sigma Kappas knew her well; she attended several conventions. We remember Frances Mann Hall now."

Light fourth candle.

Speaker five recites:

"I light this candle for Louise Helen Coburn, second woman to graduate from Colby College, a scholar all her life. Poet, historian and botanist, she was the first woman trustee of Colby College. She served on the park and library commissions of her hometown, Skowhegan, Maine. When unable to attend conventions, she never failed to send greetings to her Sigma Kappa sisters. She was 93 when she died in 1949. She had lived to rejoice in the posterity she had foreseen in 1874. Her sister, two nieces, a grandniece and her nephew's wife are all Sigma Kappas. We remember Louise Helen Coburn now."

Light fifth candle.

VPAR or president recites:

"We light another candle, and we remember all the Sigma Kappa sisters who have joined them and all those gone since we last met. We hold them dear in sisterhood."

Light sixth candle.

Close with the following message:

"May the candle our founders lit shine bright and
Our widening circle spread that candlelight.

They sought for learning, shared their dreams.
That olden dream has strengthened with the years.

We share their joy, their laughter, work and play;
We know the learning they were proud to seek.

With them we say the old Greek words they loved;
'En ker mia odos' so now we say;

'One Heart, One Way'—four words forever new—
We Sigmas say them all the wide world through,

And if we meet, or if close home we stay,
Four words repeat; One Heart, One Way."