
Beta Sigma Phi

PLATINUM CIRCLE RITUAL

Instructions: *The Ritual Table is set with a white cloth. A large platinum or silver pillar candle is placed in the center, with the Ritual colored candles arranged in order in a semi circle across the table, back of the pillar candle (may use two groups of Ritual colored candles, one on each side or one group with three on one side and three on the other).*

The Ritual should be read by another 70-year member, or by a member specially selected for this honor. May appoint one or two assistants to hold a lighted candle to provide light for the officiant. The room is darkened with only the candles lighted before the recipients enter. Members attending form a semi-circle in front of the Ritual Table. They may be seated or standing. Recipient(s) stand in the center of the circle.

Officiant reads: As you step into the platinum years of your life in Beta Sigma Phi, you hold true to the virtues which you so lovingly pledged to uphold, seventy years ago. From darkness you came into the light and have shown yourself to be worthy. You carried with you the torch of truth, beauty and love; cascading in a glorious array of colors.

You stand for others as a shining example of the virtues represented by those colors; the red of courage, the yellow of vision, the blue of humility, the orange of loyalty, the green of fellowship and the violet of service. And you wield the torch untarnished by the corrosion of doubt and discouragement. For you are strong in your convictions, lest you would not be standing here today, such as that rare and precious metal which marks your long standing years of devotion.

Your strength of courage has lead you to this moment, for it is through your strength that you found the courage to take this journey of selflessness and love. With courage you have weathered the storms and faced the uncertainties in life. Resilient in your devotion to the good, the true and the beautiful; you have found that courage is merely a stepping stone to life. For it is through courage that we venture out into the unknown and seek for ourselves a life of beauty and art.

Your strength of vision has shown you the way, for it takes strength of vision to see beyond the hills and valleys in life. Armed with that strength you were able to cling to the light of our torch and to walk onward in that light towards the path of virtue. Though at times you may have faltered, straying from the lighted path, your strength and courage gave you the vision to see the path through the darkness.

Your strength of humility has aided you in your journey, for only the strong have the vision to see that the self alone is only as significant as the lives of those they touch around them. For our own significance in this world is part of a bigger whole. Humble in your pursuits for the perfect, you have shown the strength to be a follower as well as a guide, knowing that it takes strength to follow as well as lead. You have found that the pursuit of perfection, while noble, is not about attaining perfection. The purpose is rather the attainment of humility in the midst of uncertainty. From your journey you have learned to embrace life's challenges with grace, accepting that all life is precious.

Your strength of loyalty is evident by the steadfast way in which you have dedicated yourself to the aims and purposes of this glorious sisterhood and to each sister you meet. With great strength you have taken the steps to hold true to the ideals which have been your guide these many years. That strength, is a strength of

energy and endurance. It is that strength of loyalty which has been an inspiration to others. Through that inspiration you have shown that life is measured not by the number of years, but by the love and devotion you put into those years.

Your strength of fellowship is reflected most notably by your devotion and loyalty. For it has been that devotion which has made you a valued friend to others. Fellowship can be easy to attain and difficult to maintain. Your dedication to maintaining the fellowship of your sisters and your sorority is a source of strength that sets you apart from the crowd. It is easy to become complacent in our relationships with others, forgetting to nurture and grow those fellowships. You have shown that you not only value fellowship, but that you have the strength to hold true to the fellowship of others, not only your sisters, but all fellow beings.

Your strength of service is perhaps the most important of all. For you have served your sisters well these seventy years. You have served with the strength of courage, vision, humility, loyalty and fellowship. In that service you found strength in yourself and others. This service is the foundation of your love, the building blocks on which sorority has thrived. It is for this service that we most recognize you today.

Please accept the award of The Platinum Circle; and as you venture forth, may you continue to serve steadfast and true with all the strength you possess.