

The greatest honor a Masonic Lodge can give a fallen brother is to give him a Masonic Funeral. Our Funeral is part of our ritual and portions, if not all, of it are memorized by the certified Funeral Master. From the beginning of Las Palmas Lodge and up until the mid 1950's the procedure was to open Lodge in the 3rd degree of Masonry, call to refreshment, and then go to the funeral home, church, or cemetery and conduct the funeral. When the funeral was completed, the officers returned to Lodge and closed Lodge in proper form. However, Las Palmas Lodge was a very busy Lodge and on October 9, 1919 after the funeral of a fallen Brother, the Officers returned to the Lodge room and conferred two 3rd degrees. One of those candidates was Orval Gurnea Roberts who would be our Master in 1927.

It has been many years since our Lodge was opened for the purposes of conducting a Masonic Funeral. With the changes made at our last Grand Lodge Communication, this procedure was changed. Now if Lodge were to be opened for a funeral, it would be in the 1st degree.

On November 17, 1919, the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island passed the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Rhode Island has learned from the officers and members of Overseas Lodge, No 1, U.D., of the faithful and untiring interest shown by several brethren of other jurisdictions in the formation and work of Overseas Lodge while in Coblenz, Germany,

BE IT RESOLVED, that at this Semi-Annual Communication held at Freemason's Hall, Providence, Rhode Island, this seventeenth day of November 1919, it be the unanimous vote of the Grand Lodge of Rhode Island that its thanks and appreciation be expressed to Brother Lieut. Ernest M. Myers, Las Palmas Lodge No. 366, Fresno, California, for his invaluable services rendered to Overseas Lodge while in Coblenz, Germany.” Brother Myers became our Master in 1926.

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