

The Founders Day Ceremony can be found on Page 129 in the *Book of Ritual* and on Page 31 in the *Book of Ritual for Alumnae Associations*.

Historical Context

The Founders Day Ceremony dates back to 1949 when Elizabeth Reigart Gilchrist, *Cornell*, prepared it for the Washington, D.C., alumna celebration of Founders Day. It was put into a ceremonial form by Helena Flinn Ege, *Pittsburgh*, former Fraternity President. In more recent times, it was edited by Jean Hess Wells, *Georgia*, former Fraternity President.

Because the Founders Day Ceremony is not secret, it may be performed before uninitiated members and guests.

Setup/Staging

The setting consists of a draped table with seven candles in candleholders.

- The presiding officer should arrange for participants in advance, attempting to secure a representative group from all stakeholders present.
- The presiding officer stands in the center with six Kappas (three on each side) representing the Founders.
- Open-flame candles may be used ONLY if outside of the chapter facility and permitted.
- Parts should be on cards and numbered appropriately.
- The staging diagram will help participants visualize the setting.

Stewart Bennett Walker Presiding Officer Stevenson Willits Boyd

- All seven candles are lit simultaneously before the service is read.
- The presiding officer reads the opening and six Kappa representatives follow with individual parts, alternating from 1 to 2, 3 to 4, and 5 to 6.
- Each reader raises their candle as they read their part.
- Following the ceremony, the presiding officer may choose to close with the MC (secret). If this is the case, the presiding officer says, “Now, will all uninitiated members please recess to the foyer where we will meet them after our closing ritual?”
- Initiated members may join in the MC (secret), which concludes the ceremony.

On the following pages, you will find:

- The Founders Day parts “card ready.”
- Services for the presentation for the 25-, 50-, 65-, and 75-year pins.
- The service to recognize members of Advisory Boards and House Boards.

1. Stewart 3. Bennett 5. Walker Presiding Officer 6. Stevenson 4. Willits 2. Boyd

At the beginning of the ceremony, all candles are turned on at the same time.

Presiding Officer:

Opening: “On October 13, 1870, six young women, students at Monmouth College, marched into chapel wearing little golden keys proclaiming the founding of their Fraternity — Kappa Kappa Gamma. It is fitting that, at our Founders Day celebration, we honor these women of vision to whom we owe so much.”

Closing: “These candles honor the great Fraternity they founded, now **153** years old with its **140** active chapters, **224** alumnae associations and more than **320,750** total initiated members. Kappa Kappa Gamma, the inspiration of our ideals and the foundation of our ever-growing circle of friendship. This concludes our candle-lighting ceremony.”

Optional: “For our closing ritual, will all uninitiated members please recess to the foyer.”

1. Stewart 3. Bennett 5. Walker Presiding Officer 6. Stevenson 4. Willits 2. Boyd
Candles

1. I raise this candle in memory of Mary Moore Stewart, the first to think of organizing a Greek-letter fraternity for women at Monmouth College. She served as the first President of Alpha Chapter and the Fraternity as Kappa chapters were founded on other campuses.

1. Stewart 3. Bennett 5. Walker Presiding Officer 6. Stevenson 4. Willits 2. Boyd
Candles

2. I raise this candle in memory of Hannah Jeanette Boyd. She served as the first Secretary of Alpha Chapter and the first Secretary of the Fraternity.

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Candles

3. I raise this candle in memory of Mary Louise Bennett. She was one of the original four who met to decide the form of the organization, the motto and the badge.

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Candles

4. I raise this candle in memory of Anna Elizabeth Willits. She played a significant role in selecting the Fraternity badge: a golden key.
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Candles

5. I raise this candle in memory of Susan Burley Walker. She was the first initiate and one of the youngest of the Founders, being only 15 at the time of her initiation, and the first alumna of the Fraternity.
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1. Stewart 3. Bennett 5. Walker Presiding Officer 6. Stevenson 4. Willits 2. Boyd

Candles

6. I raise this candle in memory of Martha Louisa Stevenson, who entertained the first regular meeting of Kappa Kappa Gamma at her home in Monmouth.

The tradition of honoring 25-, 50-, 65-, and 75-year Kappas is captured in four pieces of ritual available for this occasion. The service for the presentation of the 25-year pin is found on Page 22 of the *Book of Ritual for Alumnae Associations*. The service for presenting 50-year pins and the alternate service for presenting 50-year pins are found on Pages 24 and 25. The service for the presentation of the 65- or 75-year pins is found on Page 27. All of these services are also available on the Kappa Kappa Gamma website.

Although Founders Day is the traditional alumna event that showcases our ritual, remember that you will find the services for FS and RR on Pages 34 and 44 of the *Book of Ritual for Alumnae Associations*. Each of these ceremonies provides a special alumnae association program as well as a perfect opportunity to rekindle our bonds within Kappa Kappa Gamma and inspire alumnae to reconnect with chapter initiation events.

In 2008, the Fraternity commissioned a special pin to commemorate 25 years of membership and in 2020, the Fraternity commissioned a special pin to commemorate 10 years of membership. These pins are available for purchase from [Herff Jones](#). As alumnae associations strive to attract members from all stages of fraternity membership, it seems appropriate to honor members who are in the middle stages of their adult lives. It serves as an important reminder that our connection with the Fraternity is valuable to our alumnae associations and active chapters, as well as the individual member.

Members who will receive their 10-year or 25-year pin should be called forward and the presiding officer will read the service. At the conclusion of the service, the pins should be distributed and hearty congratulations shared by those in attendance.

Presiding Officer:

Ten/25 years of membership in Kappa Kappa Gamma is a noteworthy anniversary, one which should be recognized and commemorated with the presentation of this beautiful pin. Symbolic of your personal growth and contributions to the Fraternity since your initiation into Kappa Kappa Gamma 10/25 years ago, the pin should be worn as a reminder that what we receive from membership in Kappa Kappa Gamma and what we, in turn, give to our Fraternity continue beyond active chapter days. It is a symbol of your enduring loyalty and commitment to the Fraternity.

We acknowledge that the experiences and talents you bring to your association, our Advisory and House Boards and the Fraternity make you an intricate and important part of Kappa. As a new member, you were asked to “realize the deep significance of entering Fraternity life, assuming its responsibilities and sharing its privileges.” At Initiation, your chapter President shared, “We are placing in your hands the responsibility for the future of Kappa Kappa Gamma.”

Now, as you meet the challenges of balancing family responsibilities, career demands, service to your community, and sustaining personal relationships, you will find the support and nurturing of the Fraternity. As future generations of new members are initiated, we hope that you will discover a role within Kappa Kappa Gamma to perpetuate the “attainment of excellence” by our active chapter and alumna members. Kappa Kappa Gamma will be there for you as an alumna for many years to come, just as it was a steadying force in your active chapter days.

We congratulate you on 10/25 years of membership. May you wear this symbol of your loyalty and pride as you continue to serve our beloved Fraternity.

Carol Morrison Sobek, *Arizona State*
Fraternity Ritual Chairman (2004–12)

Susanne Wolff Vander Heyden, *Washington State*
Fraternity Director of Alumnae (2008–12)

Presiding Officer:

A 50th anniversary is a very special occasion. Today, we have the privilege and pleasure of honoring those who have been Kappas for 50 years.

Ask 50-year Kappas to stand.

Sponsors selected in advance stand with them.

Fifty years ago, you gave your name and interest to your chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma to keep sacredly.

You have given loyalty, sincerity, and friendship to the members of this Fraternity.

As a memento of what Kappa has meant to you and what you mean to us, we give you this pin, the golden fleur-de-lis, a symbol of your 50 years of loyalty.

Sponsors pin on the insignia.

Agnes Guthrie Favrot, Tulane

Presiding Officer:

I feel it is a great privilege to perform this special service for the association and the Fraternity.

There is a certain something that causes a thrill whenever we meet another Kappa, but there is a feeling far deeper and more reverent when that person has been a Kappa for 50 years.

When we became members in the bonds of Kappa Kappa Gamma, we welded links that bound us together in purpose and ideals — ideals that develop the highest qualities in each of us. We respect these qualities in all Kappas, and we know that they deepen and mature with the passing years.

And so the Fraternity feels that when a Kappa has been a member for more than 50 years, they should be honored with a special pin that designates to all Kappas their years of loyalty.

This symbol also proclaims that the loyal Kappa, during these years, has enriched the Fraternity through loyalty and by carrying our ideals into all walks of life — home, spiritual, civic and professional. Kappas are trained to be leaders and expected to do their share in all ways to prove their Kappa heritage.

The presiding officer asks 50-year Kappas to stand one at a time, followed by the sharing of biographical material about each honoree. The biography can be shared by the presiding officer or by the sponsor, who has been selected in advance of the service to pin on the insignia. When all 50-year Kappas have been honored, the presiding officer reads this affirmation.

Kappa members, it is an honor for us to present to you, in the name of the Fraternity, these pins, symbolic of your years of membership in Kappa Kappa Gamma. Our wish for you is that the years ahead will continue to be full of happy Kappa associations.

Emily Mount Ashcroft, *Adelphi*

This ceremony, specifically designed to use as an addendum to the 50-year ceremony, brings special distinction to those who will celebrate 65 or 75 years of Fraternity membership.

The presiding officer asks the honored member to come forward with their sponsor or friend, who will assist with pinning the honoree.

Presiding Officer:

When a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma reaches the significant milestone of 65/75 years of membership, we should all pause to celebrate their dedication to our Fraternity and their life achievements. Our 65-/75-year Kappa is [name], a member of [chapter] Chapter of Kappa Kappa Gamma and the [name] Alumnae Association.

Insert biographical material here, presented by either the presiding officer or a Kappa friend of the honoree.

In addition to this member's dedication to family, career, community and Kappa, we should celebrate the fact that this member has provided a vital link to our heritage in Kappa Kappa Gamma. Initiated in [year], they have been a participant in the historical advances in our fraternal and the educational world. They come to our Founders Day as a tangible representation of how the bonds of our membership can transcend college days and carry us forward into all the stages of our adult life. To those of us gathered today, [name] is the loyal Fraternity member we aspire to be. This Kappa reminds us that when we become members of our Fraternity, we become members for life. It is fitting that we should honor this special member today with the 65-/75-year pin, which symbolizes a lifetime of membership in Kappa Kappa Gamma.

Carol Morrison Sobek, *Arizona State*
Fraternity Ritual Chairman (2004–12)

This is applicable for advisers and House Board members who serve a chapter locally or long distance.

Presiding Officer:

In celebration of Founders Day, we remember the six Founders of Kappa Kappa Gamma and recognize their talents and characters as truly remarkable for women of their time.

Fortunately, Kappas continue to give their time and talents. Today, we recognize women who act as mentors, managers, mobilizers, miracle workers and magicians. They are advisers and members of [chapter name] Chapter's Advisory Board and House Board.

Would all alumnae who serve on Advisory Board and House Board please stand and let us honor your service to this chapter and Kappa Kappa Gamma with applause?

If applicable, recognize advisers and/or House Board members of other chapters.

Both collegians and alumnae are very proud and appreciative of the time and energy you have devoted to this chapter and the Fraternity.

Thank you.