

The Broken Arrow Ceremony

This ceremony is a final tribute to a deceased Arrowman who has served cheerfully to help others, and who, in his daily life, has lived the Scout Oath and Law. It is performed at the wake with the consent of the deceased's family. It is proper that either preceding or after the ceremony the Lodge Advisor and/or Lodge Chief, Allowat Sakima and Meteu offer proper condolences to the family.

All available Order of the Arrow members should be in full uniform with their OA sash. Allowat Sakima and Meteu are in full uniform (or costume if desired by the family), sash, and appropriate headdress. The Brothers file into the parlor forming two equal lines extending from each end of the casket. One line is led by Allowat Sakima. Meteu leads the other line. Once in position, the Brothers turn, cross arms right over left, and join hands with the Brother next to them. An arrow is carried by the second Brother in Meteu's line. Upon turning, the arrow is held on the ends by the first and second Brother in that line, leaving a space bridged by the arrow. to indicate the Spirit of the departed Brother.

Allowat Sakima and Meteu move to a position about three feet in front of, and to either side of the casket, and face the mourners.

METEU: We are members of _____ Lodge #_____, Order of the Arrow. The Order of the Arrow is a society of members of the Boy Scouts of America who have been recognized by their fellow Scouts for their outstanding devotion to the high ideals of the Scout Oath and Law. Its foundation is brotherhood in cheerful service, modeled after the Delaware Indian tribe. We have come to pay our final tribute to our departed Brother.

Allowat Sakima, Chief of the Fire, will now relate a brief Scouting history of our Brother. (Turn to Allowat Sakima.)

ALLOWAT SAKIMA: (Gives a brief Scouting history of the departed Brother, emphasizing their contributions of the Order.)

(Turns to Meteu.)

METEU:
Peace, my Brothers of the Arrow
Of this Lodge and humble tribe,
Bear with me this obligation
To our Brother gone before us
On the trail of fulfillment.

He who camped and served among us,
He who always stood beside us,
Now has left his earthly trail

For the trail of his Maker.

Let us in our hearts and minds
Remember he who was our Brother
On the earth. Forever in spirit
Brother _____(name)_____ will be among us.

(Meteu gets arrow from the Brothers in his line. These Brothers WILL NOT join hands when the arrow is taken by Meteu. The space in the line also remains. Meteu takes the arrow with both hands and give it to Allowat Sakima, who takes it with both hands.)

ALLOWAT SAKIMA:

As a symbol of our Order, the arrow has been fitly chosen. It must be straight, its point keen. Aimed high, its course is undeviating, its direction onward and upward. It, therefore, has been chosen as a symbol of leadership. The breaking of this arrow (breaks arrow) is symbolic of the end of strife and the beginning of peace.

(Place arrow on casket or give to the widow or a family member. It is appropriate for Allowat Sakima to kneel before the widow/family member and offer the arrow in both open hands above his bowed head. Meteu can place the proper sash over the open casket lid, across the foot of the casket, or give a partially folded sash to the widow/family member.)

ALLOWAT SAKIMA:

Brother Meteu will help us strengthen our spirits.

METEU:

Oh, Great Master,
Hear us in our thoughts this evening,
In our final tribute to our Brother.

He who loved the haunts of nature,
Loved the moonlight on the water,
Loved the sunshine on the meadow,
Loved the shadow of the forest,
Loved the wind among the pine trees,
Loved the rushing of great rivers,
Loved the thunder of the mountains,
Loved all of nature in its splendor.
Found in nature his duty to Man
And pledged himself to cheerful service
Serving his Brothers and his fellow man.

Rest, Brother, we've known you well indeed

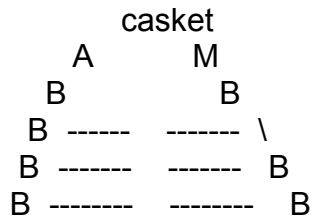
And now in peace you'll sleep.
 You have done your work, and done it well
 So none of us need weep.
 In Scouting we will miss your smile
 And your friendly handclasp
 But your Master will guide your steps
 And point the way for you.

(Pause for an appropriate length of time.)

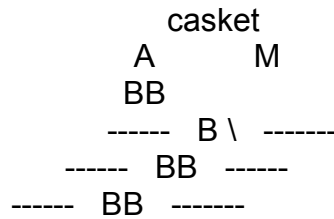
ALLOWAT SAKIMA:
 So may it be.

(Allowat Sakima then leads his line of Brothers past the casket and out of the parlor. Meteu then follows by leading his line past the casket and out of the parlor.)

Diagrams: Side Aisles



Center Aisle



Key: A=Allowat Sakima, M=Meteu, B=Brother, \ =arrow.