

Those who have served and those currently serving in law enforcement, are ever mindful that the fulfillment of enduring law enforcement has always been tainted by the bitterness of personal sacrifice. We are compelled to never forget that while we enjoy our daily pleasures, there are others who no longer have that privilege.

Before we begin our activities this evening, we will pause to recognize, our comrades, our friends, the fallen officers of our nation.

We call your attention to this small table, which occupies a place of dignity and honor near the head table. It is set for one, symbolizing the fact that members of our profession are missing from our ranks. They are referred to as **Members of Heaven I. We call them comrades.**

They are unable to be with their loved ones and families tonight, so we join together to pay our humble tribute to them, and bear witness to their continued absence.

This table, set for one, is small, symbolizing the frailty of one, the single officer, as he walks his beat or drives his patrol car.

The tablecloth is white, symbolic of the purity of their intentions to respond to their call to duty.

The single red rose in the vase, signifies the ultimate price paid in the performance of their duty. A sacrifice to ensure the rights and freedom of those they served. This rose also reminds us of the family and friends of our missing comrades who keep the faith that their sacrifice was not in vain.

The black ribbon on the candle represents the black ribbons worn on our badges, the day we laid them to rest. A promise to them, they won't be forgotten.

A slice of lemon on the plate reminds us of their bitter fate.

The salt sprinkled on the plate reminds us of the countless fallen tears of friends and families as they grieve for their loved one.

The glass is inverted - they cannot toast with us this night.

The chair is empty - they are not here.

The candle is reminiscent of the light of hope which lives in our hearts to illuminate their remembrance. Forgotten too soon by the civilian populist, but carried forever in our hearts.

Let us pray to the Supreme Chief that all of the **Members of Heaven I, our comrades will always be remembered and honored within our ranks.**

Let us remember and never forget their sacrifices.

May God forever watch over them and protect them and their families.