

## Special Words to Transfer Merit for Specific-Year Memorial Service (1)

Now, on this occasion of the specific-year memorial service for the [*family name*] family, the family members of the departed, members of the Sangha, and friends and relatives have gathered here to sincerely conduct this memorial service by reciting the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma as well as by offering incense, flowers, light, and several kinds of food and drink so that the departed may be at peace.

Now, we offer the essential verses on the way to attain enlightenment. We wish the deceased may believe and revere them with pure hearts but never have any doubts.

Chapter 2 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “Skillful Means,” reads:  
“Of those who hear the Dharma  
None will fail to become a buddha.”

Also, chapter 16 of the Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma, “The Life Span of the Eternal Tathagata,” says:

“I always know living beings,  
Those who practice the Way and those who do not,  
And for their sake expound various teachings  
To liberate each of them accordingly.  
I am ever thinking:  
‘How can I cause living beings to  
Embark upon the unsurpassable Way  
And quickly accomplish embodiment as buddhas?’”

All the members of the Sangha in attendance here acknowledge today’s memorial service as an opportunity to make a vow to practice the bodhisattva way by sharing the teachings with many people.

We also resolve to transfer to the deceased all the merits that we have made by performing good deeds since the beginningless past as well as all the merits that we will do from today to the infinite future.

Here, on the [*ordinal number*] memorial service for  
[*Posthumous name / Secular name*] (*Recite it twice*),

we reverently pray that *[appropriate pronoun]* may experience the joy of the Dharma by hearing this sutra recitation and remembering the teachings of Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle, and Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion, and also that *[appropriate pronoun]* may be embraced by the great benevolence and compassion of the Eternal Original Buddha. We make a humble vow to pray that, through the wondrous Dharma taught by the Founder and Cofounder, *[appropriate pronoun]* may take *[appropriate pronoun]* place on the jeweled cart of the One-Vehicle truth and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect Awakening.

Namu Myoho Renge Kyo  
*(Strike the gong once.)*

**Note**

The term “specific-year” used for the periodic-year memorial service means the 1st, 3rd, 7th, 13th, 17th, 23rd, 27th, 33rd, 50th, and 100th year after death.