

Grave Consecration and Burial Service

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Meditation on the Place of the Way
- Taking Refuge in the Three Treasures
- Invocation

We put our faith in

The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;

The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;

The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;

The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast Practice;

The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-mahasattvas;

Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;

Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;

Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;

The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;

And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

May you all be present among us and know our deep devotion.

The bereaved members of the [family name] family, of the [chapter name] Chapter, [Dharma center name], their relatives, and members of the Sangha, all of pure heart, have gathered to solemnly conduct this grave consecration and burial service for [posthumous name/ secular name].

A new headstone is now placed on this gravesite by the [family name] family at the wish of the representative of the family.

We earnestly pray for guidance in all things through the profound, sublime meaning of the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma.

(Strike the gong and recite the O-daimoku once.)

- Opening Verse
- Sutra Recitation (*Chapters 2 and 16 from the Kyoten*)
- Dharanis (*Chapters 26 and 28 from the Kyoten's appendix, five times each*)
- Universal Transfer of Merit

- Recitation of the O-daimoku
- Transfer of Merit

Having respectfully recited the Great Vehicle Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Wondrous Dharma,
 may we transfer its merits to and thus reciprocate the boundless compassion of
 The Eternal Buddha Shakyamuni—Great Benevolent Teacher, World-Honored One;
 The Tathagata Abundant Treasures, witness to the Lotus Sutra;
 The separated embodiments of the Buddha in the ten directions in the past, present, and future;
 The four great bodhisattvas: Superior Practice, Boundless Practice, Pure Practice, and Steadfast
 Practice;
 The bodhisattva-mahasattvas: Manjushri, Universal Sage, Maitreya, and all other bodhisattva-
 mahasattvas;
 Great Bodhisattva Nichiren, revered practitioner of the Lotus Sutra;
 Founder Nikkyo, Great Teacher of the One Vehicle;
 Cofounder Myoko, Bodhisattva of the Way of Compassion;
 The guardian spirits of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 The guardian spirits of [*Dharma center name*];
 The guardian spirits of the [*family name*] family;
 The guardian spirits of member families of Rissho Kosei-kai;
 And the countless heavenly spirits in the ten directions.

(Strike the gong once.)

Now, all of us—bereaved family members, relatives, and Sangha members—have sincerely recited
 the sutra and respectfully expressed our gratitude to the Buddha for arranging the consecration of
 this grave and the burial service for the [*family name*] family.

We reverently pray that through this sutra recitation
 [*Posthumous name/ Secular name*] (*Recite it twice.*)
 as well as all ancestors of the [*family name*] family
 may delight in the taste of the Dharma and quickly accomplish the great fruit of Supreme Perfect
 Awakening in the eternal tranquility of the wondrous land of nirvana.

- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)
- Ritual of Burial (*Ceremony to lay one's ashes to rest*)
- Ritual of Pouring the Water on the Gravestone
- Blessing (*Sprinkle salt, rice and sake.*)

- Incense Offering
- Homage (*Recite the O-daimoku three times.*)

Note

As for the Ritual of Purifying the Four Corners above, sprinkle salt, rice, and *sake* at the four corners of the grave site or, if the grave is shaped such a way that it does not have four corners, sprinkle them at imaginary four corners. Further, you can replace the rice and *sake* with products available in your area that are traditionally used for religious rituals and ceremonies.