



Church Holds Annual Memorial Roll Ceremony

Each year on the Sunday of Memorial Day Weekend, Columbia (South Carolina) First Church memorializes members of the congregation or individuals of members' families that have died over the last 12 months.

Through this tradition, friends and/or special groups in the church (such as Sunday School classes) contribute to Missionary Health Care (formerly Medical Plan) by ordering a Memorial Roll certificate in memory of a loved one. For those members who have died and not had their name placed on the Memorial Roll, faith promise funds are budgeted to do so. This way, everyone is remembered through the NMI Memorial Roll.

A family member is sent a letter announcing the date of the Memorial Roll ceremony, when the certificates will be presented, and inviting family and friends to attend. In addition, a form is attached for the family to provide a short biographical sketch of the loved one being remembered.

The day of the ceremony, a program is distributed that lists the individuals' names, biographies, and statements that best describe those people. The ceremony includes a short description about the establishment of the first Memorial Roll and the purpose of it. Family and friends are asked to stand when their loved one's name is called, while a representative comes forward to receive the certificate. As that representative comes forward, the sentence describing the one being remembered is read.

Through the contributions to Missionary Health Care through the Memorial Roll, this ceremony provides an opportunity to honor these individuals. It also is a time to reflect on our church family and their gracious support and love that they continue to demonstrate.

Alice Adkins • *Columbia, South Carolina*

Sample of Memorial Roll Ceremony

This week our country is remembering those who have gone on before us. Through Nazarene Missions International Memorial Roll each year here at Columbia First, our church family honors the memory of individuals, who either were a part of this church or were immediate family members of those who attend here.

The Memorial Roll was first established in 1919, and the names are kept on record at the Global Ministry Center (formerly International Headquarters) of the Church of the Nazarene. They are also placed on a plaque here at our local church. In addition a certificate is issued in the name of the person memorialized and is presented to a family member.

Contributions for the certificates are made by individuals or groups, and the money received goes to help provide health care for Nazarene missionaries. In some instances there have been multiple certificates purchased in memory of an individual.

This morning we are privileged to have friends and relatives, who have joined us for the presentation of the

certificates. When I call your loved one's name, will the family members please stand and remain standing while one representative comes forward to receive the certificate.

Psalm 103:15-16 tell us, "As for man his days are like grass, he flourishes like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone." God compares life on earth to a flower. Like a flower, life is a thing of beauty. Today we recognize the beauty these individuals manifested through descriptions of their lives, as characterized by their family.

Our honorees this year are:

- *(Name of honoree—sentence that describes person)*

While we are still remaining, may we bloom where we are planted, radiating God's love through his son Jesus living in us.

Alice Adkins • *Columbia, South Carolina*



P R O M O I D E A S



Note: Both items on this page were submitted by Alice Adkins to coordinate with the items on the facing page for your convenience in planning a Memorial Roll Ceremony.

SAMPLE TEXT FOR LETTER OF INVITATION

Dear (name):

During the services on (date) at (time of service), (name of church) will have a time for remembering deceased loved ones. At that time, Nazarene Missions International will present Memorial Roll certificates to representatives of those honored. This will include your loved one, (name of deceased).

Would you be willing to serve as the representative for your loved one? The service will be inspirational, and you are encouraged to invite family and friends to attend.

Families and friends of those being remembered will have reserved seats (location of reserved seating). When your loved one's name is called, all family and friends of that individual will be asked to stand, and you, as representative, will be invited to receive the certificate(s). Memorial Roll certificates have been purchased by individuals or groups in the church to honor those that have departed, and sometimes there are multiple certificates for an honoree.

Please complete the enclosed sheet and return it in the addressed stamped envelope (also enclosed) by (date). A program is being developed that will contain short biographical sketches of the honorees.

Also on the sheet, please indicate which service you plan to attend. If you do not wish to participate, please mark that line on the form, and the certificate will be mailed to you. If you have any questions, please contact me at (phone number).

Thank you for your assistance. I look forward to seeing you on (date of service) for this occasion.

In Christ,

(name of president)
NMI President

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

Name of honoree: _____

Date of birth: _____

Date of death: _____

Church membership: yes ____ no ____ If so, name of church and where _____

Involvement/activities in local church: (i.e., member of choir, Sunday School class, Bible study, etc.) _____

Career/education: _____

Community involvement: _____

Sentence that best describes honoree: _____

Relationship of honoree to you: (i.e., son, wife, father, etc.) _____

Please list names of other members of First Church and relationship of honoree to them: _____

In which service will you receive the certificate?

____ 9:30 a.m. service

____ 11:00 a.m. service

____ Prefer the honoree not to be listed in program and that certificate be mailed instead

Please Return in Stamped Addressed Envelope to (name) by (date of Memorial Roll ceremony).