

# BROKEN WAND CEREMONY

by Bruce Chadwick, Copyright November 2008

In loving remembrance of \_\_\_\_\_, we the fellow magicians of The Fort Worth Magicians Club, Ren Clark IBM Ring 15, and Bruce Chadwick SAM Assembly 138 humbly participate in this service. We perform today a tribute to a fellow practitioner of the illusion arts. Magicians everywhere bow their heads in spirit to pay him honor.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I am the \_\_\_\_\_ (position within the club) of The Fort Worth Magicians Club, a club where \_\_\_\_\_ (deceased's name) was an active member.

In being here today, perhaps it is important to explain what we mean when we use the terms magicians and magic. To us, magic is the world of magic tricks, illusions and sleight-of-hand. It is the art of using intriguing puzzles to entertain and mystify. It is the world of sawing ladies in half, making them seemingly float in the air, and pulling rabbits out of hats.

As magicians, we have an uncanny bond. Our interest in magic pulls us together perhaps unlike any other profession, avocation, or hobby. We are eager to show each other the latest card trick. You might find a millionaire and a pauper sitting on the living room carpet digging through a cardboard box of magic puzzles, giddy like were long-lost brothers. Common interest in magic is a great equalizer that often transcends age, culture, education, and status. Put two magicians in the same room who have never met each other, and within minutes they will have a unique bond that can only be described as brotherhood.

From the beginning of time, symbols have used to represent various nations, businesses, and groups. Both the United States and ancient Greco Roman Empire used images of the Bald Eagle to represent their countries. The fire hat is a symbol of fireman everywhere. The "cadecus" is the symbol of physicians worldwide.

To the magician, the magic wand is his symbol. In reality it is nothing more than a simple stick, painted black with white tipped ends. It is nothing more than a theatrical prop used during the performance of entertainment. And yet while it has no "magic powers," used during performance it comes to life to intrigue the eye, mystify the mind, and move people into awe. Our magic illusion craft deepens with the use of this symbol.

We do something today that we consider very somber and real. We acknowledge that without a master to wield it, the wand ceases to have its strength and power. Magicians have lost a brother with the passing of \_\_\_\_\_, and today we break this wand as yet another symbol, a symbol of passing. \_\_\_\_\_ has done a feat that we who are alive have not done. He has moved over into another realm, a dimension of existence that only those who have moved from life into death can experience. He has passed over into mysteries that only he can know. \_\_\_\_\_ we will miss you.

Thank you \_\_\_\_\_ for your friendship and the joy you brought to so many with your performances and enthusiasm for the magic arts. On behalf of The Fort Worth Magicians Club, we honor you this day. (break wand, give broken pieces to deceased member's family).