

# **Native Daughters of the Golden West**

## **Initiation Ceremony**

**Adopted June 2017**

# CEREMONY OF INITIATION

**THREE RAPS** – *(calls the Parlor to order)*

**PRESIDENT:** I now declare the meeting open for the Ceremony of Initiation. Worthy Marshal and your assistant(s), please prepare the room.  
*(Pause until room preparation is complete. Refer to the Ceremony Of Initiation, Diagram One – Position of the Banners and the Arrangement of the Room.)*

**PRESIDENT:** Worthy Vice Presidents and Worthy Past President, please assume your stations at the front of the room.  
*(Pause for Officers to be seated.)*

**PRESIDENT:** Worthy Marshal, please attend to your duty at the Altar.  
**ONE RAP**

*(The Marshal approaches the Altar, reverently opens the Holy Bible, and returns to her station.)*

**TWO RAPS**

**PRESIDENT:** Worthy Inside Sentinel, please admit all Members and guests, but permit no one to enter nor leave the room during the Ceremony of Initiation, except in cases of emergency.

**PRESIDENT:** Sisters, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, and \_\_\_\_\_ is (are) awaiting admission to our Order. *(Pause)*

Worthy Marshal, please retire to the Anteroom and conduct the Entrance March of the Candidate(s).

*(The Marshal retires, and before re-entering, gives the door signal. The President raps up the Parlor before the Inside Sentinel opens the door.)*

**ONE RAP**

**PRESIDENT:** Worthy Inside Sentinel, please attend to your duty at the door.

**MARSHAL:** Worthy Inside Sentinel, I present this (these) candidate(s) for Initiation into the Native Daughters of the Golden West.

**INSIDE SENTINEL:** We welcome you, dear friend(s).

**PRESIDENT:** We shall sing (recite) “The Initiation Ode”.

## INITIATION ODE

Spread the golden gates wide open to this (these) daughter(s) of the West  
Seeking entrance at the portal of our Order grand and blest.  
Come then, now, we gladly greet thee to our loyal, loving band,  
Where with vows so truly plighted, firm, united here we stand.

Come then, now, and journey onward, o'er the path where duty lies,  
Leading upward to our Altar, where the Holy Bible lies.  
Here thy vow will bind thee ever to our loyal, loving band,  
Standing firm and true forever, pledged to God and Native Land.

*(The Inside Sentinel closes the door after all enter and returns directly to her station. As the Initiation Ode is being read or sung, the Marshal, candidate(s), and Assistant Marshal(s) circle the entire room clockwise, walking past the Marshal's station, in front of the Altar, past the Past President's and First Vice President's stations, and then proceeding to their chairs behind the Altar where they stand for the Obligation. If Assistant Marshals are used to escort the candidates, they will return to their seats after escorting the candidates to the Altar. (Refer to Ceremony of Initiation, Diagram Two – Floor Movement of Marshal and Candidate(s).)*

**PRESIDENT:** Worthy Past President, please invoke the Divine Blessing.

*(The Past President approaches the Altar, delivers the prayer, and returns to her station at the front of the room.)*

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Benign Father, grant us Thy favor that we direct our thoughts to Thee. We beseech Thee to grant Thy richest blessings on this (these) candidate(s). We pray for Thy guidance in all things. Teach us the beauties of loyalty, truth, and patriotism. Direct us in the ways of charity and justice so that we may be of service to all mankind. Help us each day to be fair, kind, and honest. We invoke Thy grace upon this assembly and implore Thee to lead us, Thy daughters, to Eternal Happiness. Amen.

**PARLOR:** Amen.

**PRESIDENT:** The assembly please be seated; the candidate(s) and the Worthy Marshal please remain standing.

### **TWO RAPS**

**PRESIDENT:** Our noble Order is founded for the purpose of more closely uniting those of us fortunate to be children of a happily favored State. Our principles are Love of Home, Devotion to our Flag, Veneration of the Pioneers, and an Abiding Faith in the Existence of God. Do you believe in all of these?

**CANDIDATE(S):** I do.

**PRESIDENT:** Confiding in your reply, you will now be obligated by the Worthy Past President.

*(The Past President steps forward, halfway between the Altar and the President's station.)*

**PAST PRESIDENT:** We expect from you no pledge which conflicts with the broadest civil and religious liberties. We request of you only that which is for the benefit of our State and Order. As a Member of the Native Daughters of the Golden West, do you agree to be bound to us by such a tie?

**CANDIDATE(S):** I do.

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Being thus assured of your sincerity, I am pleased to obligate you as a Member of our Order, binding you in the presence of this Good Book, *(gestures to the Holy Bible)* resting upon our Altar, whose light leads us to eternal salvation. Please place your open right hand over your heart, your left upon your right, and repeat after me, using your name where I use mine.

*(The Past President demonstrates, and the Marshal assists the candidate(s). The President may request that all Members stand to renew their obligation.)*

**PAST PRESIDENT:** I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby declare --- that I am eligible to affiliate --- with the Native Daughters of the Golden West --- that I will honor the memories of the Pioneers --- be of service to my State and Country --- and uphold the honor and dignity of our Flag. --- I solemnly promise to obey the Constitution and Laws --- of the Order --- of the Native Daughters of the Golden West --- promote its interests --- and uphold its principles, --- to all of which --- I solemnly pledge --- my sacred honor. *(The Past President lowers her hand to her side and pauses.)*

**PAST PRESIDENT:** We bear testimony to your vows. *(The Past President returns to her station at the front of the room.)*

**TWO RAPS** *(Candidate(s) and Marshal are seated.)*

**PRESIDENT:** By the vows just taken your labors are dedicated to the advancement of our Order, State, and Country. Fail not in your faith nor cease in your love for California, the brightest star in our Union.

*(Pause)*

**PRESIDENT:** The Parlor is under the immediate direction of the President, who must adhere to the Constitution and Laws of the Order. It is essential for the orderly conduct of affairs that we comply with the Constitution and Laws governing Grand Parlor,

Subordinate Parlors, as well as the Subordinate Parlor By-Laws adopted by our own Members. Our Order has passwords and signs, and at our next regular Parlor meeting, you will be instructed in learning them by our Worthy Past President and Worthy First Vice President. You will sign the Roll Book at the conclusion of this ceremony. The colors of our Order are Red, White, and Yellow. They signify the following: Red –courage, White – purity, and Yellow – the gold in the rock and soil of California.

The Recording Secretary uses the letters P.D.F.A. – Patience, Duty, Filial Affection – in closing Subordinate Parlor correspondence within the Order.

The meetings of \_\_\_\_\_ Parlor are held on the \_\_\_\_\_ of the month. We shall be glad to welcome you at every meeting.

Worthy First Vice President, please recount the glories of our Golden State of California.

*(The First Vice President stands, and the President is seated.)*

**FIRST VICE PRESIDENT:** Ships from foreign lands, bearing courageous hearts and daring souls, sought these fair shores before the Pilgrims arrived at Plymouth Bay. Native American peoples had established villages and a system of commerce, bartering with tribes throughout the West. The Franciscan friars, coming north into Alta California, envisioned the construction of our twenty-one Missions with bells pealing anthems to the new-found God. Seeking conquest and fortune, the spirited adventurer blazed his way through the wilderness and realized his fondest dream.

Scarcely had peace descended upon this new empire than a fierce struggle for material gain ensued. James Marshall's discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill brought a transformation unparalleled in history. As though overnight, accounts of our golden wealth spread afar, and from many lands came every class and creed, the mighty and the weak, the good and the bad. Unrest and disorder prevailed.

And then our Mothers came, bringing with them structure and social responsibility. Memories of the hardships of their westward journey and the desire to return to distant homes faded in time. Aided by the kindness of Chief Truckee, inspired by the political vision of General Mariano Vallejo, and encouraged by the pioneer endeavors of John Sutter, the gleaners of gold established new homes and new lives, creating an empire beyond compare. Soon these sturdy adventurers realized the great wealth of California was not confined to the minerals of the Mother Lode. Valleys full of yellow grains and ripening fruits also added to the material wealth of this sunlit land. The mountains and the forests, the valleys and the plains, resounded with the hum of human toil. Rugged natural beauty, opportunity, and industry abounded, and stories of the wonders of California spread around the globe. Once order was established, this matchless soil became the thirty-first State of the Union. Truly it is a great privilege to have California as the land of our birth.

*(Pause)*

Worthy Second Vice President, please explain the significance of the Great Seal of State.

*(The Second Vice President stands, and the First Vice President is seated.)*

**SECOND VICE PRESIDENT:** Minerva, the chosen goddess of our State, is emblematic of California and was endowed with wisdom, action, and power. She is the guardian of art and science, handicraft and invention. At her feet is the monarch of the forest, the grizzly bear, representing the sentiment of heroic strength. Clusters of grapes and sheaves of wheat depict the fruitful products of California. The distant miner toils diligently to gather the rock-bound treasure, thus revealing the golden wealth of this matchless land. The ships of trade, sailing over the rippling waters, emphasize the commercial greatness of the ocean at the western edge of our golden land. The snow-capped Sierra Nevada, reaching to Heaven, emphasizes the purity, strength, and nobility that characterize the true children of California. In the crescent of stars, each of which symbolizes a sovereign state, the thirty-first star represents our own beloved California. The motto of our State, "Eureka", meaning "I found it!", affirms the vision and accomplishments of our pioneer Fathers and Mothers. The gold from the mines, in which our forefathers labored, assured the continuance of an undivided Union, and as order and structure were realized, California grew and prospered. The lessons taught by these California Pioneers should teach us, the children of this great State, to be tolerant in our dealings with all mankind.

*(Pause)*

Worthy Third Vice President, please speak of California's flower.

*(The Third Vice President stands, and the Second Vice President is seated.)*

**THIRD VICE PRESIDENT:** The California Poppy – the State Flower – is a native blossom appropriate as the floral emblem of our Sisterhood. In a legend surrounding the birth of our golden poppy, the sun and stars and golden ore conspired to supplant Aurora as goddess of the dawn.

"So, by day and night of golden light  
They made the golden weather;  
Together sun and stars did sow  
Down in the fields below.  
Up the gold did burn,  
And, in its turn,  
Matched Earth's with Heaven's glory.  
Thus the story of our poppy's told,  
Our blossom of the gold."

It finds perfection in the Golden State, catching the glowing tints of the sunlit heavens and blessing Earth with the warmth of its radiant color. The majesty of God is revealed in the beauty, dignity, and delicacy of our California Poppy.

*(Pause)*

Worthy Past President, please speak of our Pioneers.

*(The Past President stands, and the Third Vice President is seated.)*

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Words cannot describe the debt owed to the Pioneers of California. They first came as explorers and traders. When the news of Marshall's discovery went echoing throughout the world, they flocked to our Golden Land seeking new opportunities and here remained as merchants, stockmen, and farmers. Soon an empire beyond compare was established. During those years of hardship, our Pioneer Mothers labored earnestly and effectively alongside their loved ones, ministering to every want with the loving spirit of charity. We are indebted to the Pioneer Mothers for their heroism, devotion to duty, and undying loyalty to our Country.

They share equally with our Pioneer Fathers in the glories of the building of our Golden State. Due to our Pioneer Mothers' presence and active influence, structured communities with sound governments were soon established. We venerate these Argonauts of Yesterday, who now live only in memory, and glorify their deeds as imperative to the prominence and success of California.

*(Pause)*

Worthy President, I present our friend(s) for further instruction.

*(The Past President remains standing, and the President stands.)*

## **ONE RAP**

**PRESIDENT:** Love of Country finds its universal symbol in our Flag and is the mysterious cord that binds us all together for the common good. *(The President points to the Flag.)* This Flag, dear friends, is the inspiring emblem of our Native Land. About it cluster the dearest memories of the past, and the hopes and aspirations of an enlightened nation are embodied within its broad stripes and bright stars.

Our Star Spangled Banner is a cherished heritage from our Forefathers. It floats on every sea, flutters proudly in every breeze, and is a significant and powerful standard that typifies freedom of conscience and action throughout the globe. It serves as a shield of protection and defense to the innocent, persecuted, and oppressed. It is the living, speaking, overwhelming voice of our Great Nation, proclaiming equality and justice. To our Star Spangled Banner we owe the toleration, enlightenment, and progress that now envelop mankind. Love and cherish that grand, glorious Flag. Revere and honor it as the great beacon that lights the way to further glories for all mankind. In its behalf be ever ready to uphold its dignity and to defend its honor.

*(Pause)*

Worthy Marshal, please lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and the singing of the National Anthem.

*(The Marshal approaches her station and then turns and advances approximately six steps along the sidelines and faces the Flag. All in attendance place their open right hand over their heart, their left hand empty and at their side, and the Marshal begins the Pledge with no further command. Current or former military personnel have the option of standing at attention and saluting.)*

## **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG**

I pledge allegiance to the Flag  
Of the United States of America  
And to the Republic for which it stands,  
One Nation under God,  
Indivisible,  
With Liberty and Justice for all.

## **THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER**

O say can you see, by the dawn's early light,  
What so proudly we hail'd at the twilight's last gleaming,  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare, the bombs bursting in air,  
Gave proof through the night that our flag was still there,  
O say does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?

*(The Marshal remains standing, facing the flag, until the Pledge and singing of the National Anthem are completed, then returns to her chair behind the candidate(s).)*

## **TWO RAPS**

**PRESIDENT:** Worthy Junior Past President, please extend congratulations and present our new Members with general information about our Order and Parlor. The candidate(s) will please stand.

*(The Junior Past President, or other designated Sister, steps forward, halfway between the Altar and the President's station.)*

**JUNIOR PAST PRESIDENT:** My Sister(s), I congratulate you upon your entry into our Order and extend to you the sincere welcome of the Parlor. We trust that your membership will prove both rewarding to you and advantageous to the Order. We hope that your life (lives) will be as generous, beautiful, and glorious as our own beloved Golden State.

*(Membership pins and new Member packets may be presented to the new Sister(s) at this time.)*

**PRESIDENT:** It is my pleasure to introduce our new Sisters(s).

*(Pause)*



**PRESIDENT:** Worthy Marshal, please conduct the new Sister(s) to her (their) seat(s) and return to your station.

*(The President announces whether “I Love You, California” or “(A Hymn to) California” will be read or sung solo, by a group, or in unison.)*

**PRESIDENT:** We shall sing (recite) “\_\_\_\_\_”. (If sung or recited, solo, the audience remains seated; if in unison, the audience stands.)

**ONE RAP**

**I LOVE YOU, CALIFORNIA**

I love you, California, you're the greatest State of all.  
I love you in the winter, summer, spring, and in the fall.  
I love your fertile valleys; Your dear mountains I adore.  
I love your grand old ocean, and I love her rugged shore.  
Where the snow-crowned Golden Sierras,  
Keep their watch o'er the valley's bloom,  
It is there I would be in our land by the sea,  
Every breeze bearing rich perfume.  
It is here Nature gives of her rarest.  
It is Home Sweet Home to me,  
And I know when I die I shall breathe my last sigh,  
For my sunny California.

**(OR)**

**(A HYMN TO) CALIFORNIA**

California, Golden State, at the nation's western gate  
Where the poet's dreams unfold, California, Land of Gold.  
From thy purple mountains reaching  
Through thy forests, down to the sea,  
To thy plains so richly bearing,  
Thy sons and daughters pledge faith to thee.  
Truth and honor be thy pride, justice for all men abide  
In thy heart and keep thee great, California, Golden State!

**PRESIDENT:** Worthy Marshal, please attend to your duty at the Altar.  
*(The Marshal approaches the Altar, reverently closes the Holy Bible, and returns to her station.)*

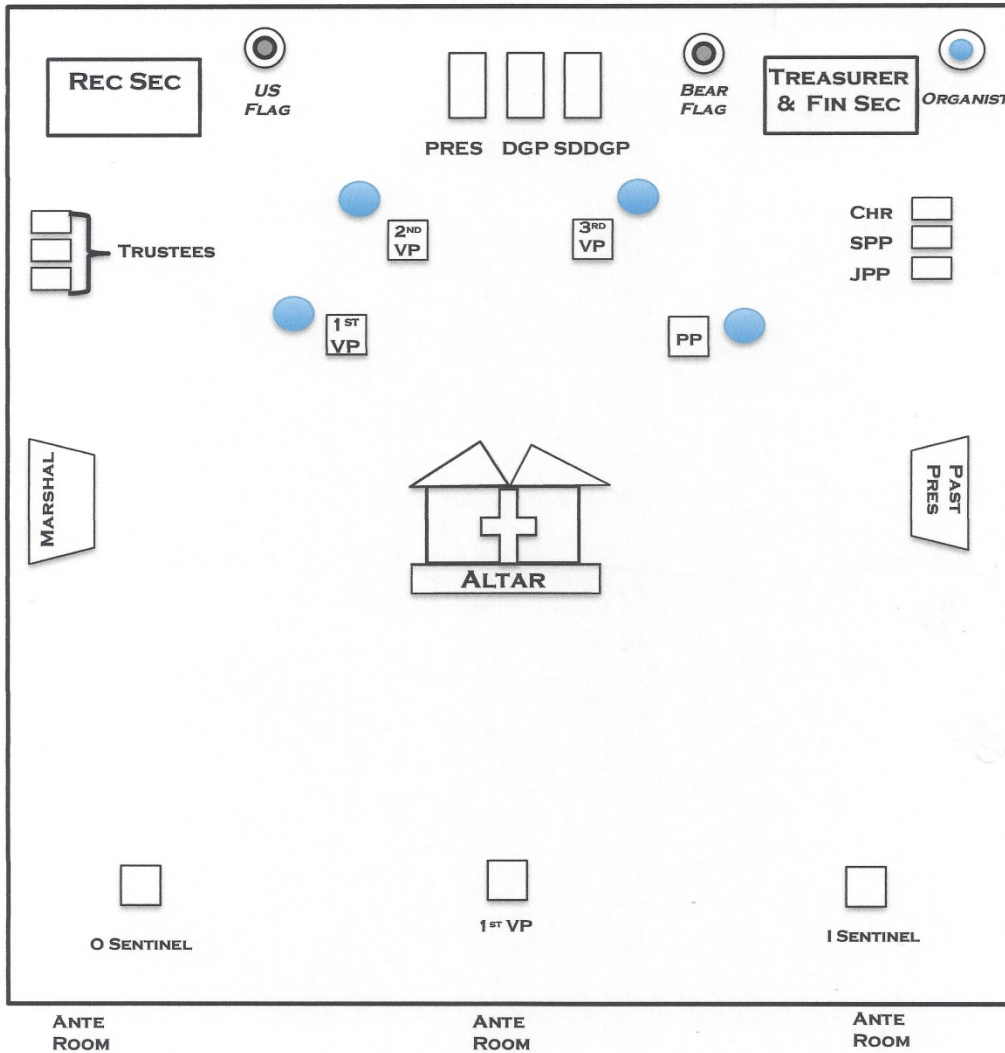
**PRESIDENT:** This concludes the Ceremony of Initiation.

**ONE RAP**

*(At a Regular Meeting a brief recess may be called to remove Banners and candidate(s) chair(s). The Vice Presidents and the Past President return to their stations.)*

CEREMONY OF INITIATION

**DIAGRAM ONE**  
 POSITION OF THE BANNERS AND THE ARRANGEMENT OF THE ROOM DURING THE  
 CEREMONY OF INITIATION

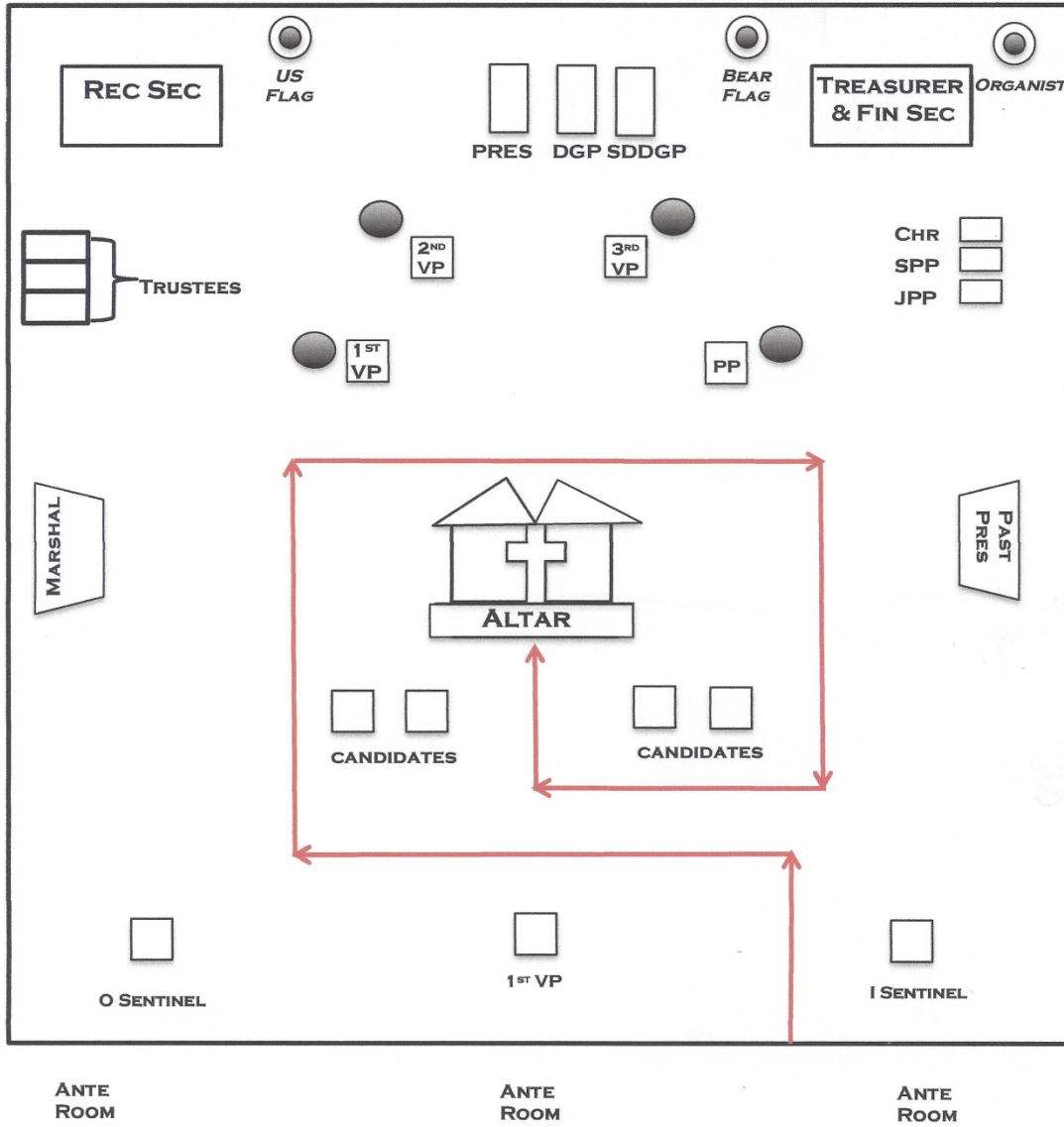


**LEGEND**

 BANNERS

CEREMONY OF INITIATION

**DIAGRAM TWO**  
FLOOR MOVEMENT OF MARSHAL AND CANDIDATES DURING THE  
CEREMONY OF INITIATION



**LEGEND**

RED line is led by Marshal