

## **SUGGESTED CEREMONY 50-YEAR SERVICE AWARD**

*The High Priest of the Chapter or any Past High Priest is qualified to conduct the 50-Year Service Award ceremony. The ceremony may be conducted in a Chapter that has been regularly opened and is at labor. Wives and friends may be invited into the Chapter during the ceremony. The ceremony may also be conducted at special meetings of a Chapter such as a social meeting. The conductor will designate Companions to act as Chaplain, Captain of the Host, and Secretary (these may be the installed officers or, for the purposes of the ceremony, non-officers).*

*\* indicates a gavel rap.*

*(Conductor of the Ceremony from the East)*

**FREEMASONRY TEACHES** a proper respect for a 50-year veteran brother. Every Masonic Lodge has delineated upon the Master's carpet the three steps, symbolic of youth, manhood, and age, teaching us that in youth we should apply ourselves to the attainment of useful knowledge, as Fellowcraft to apply this knowledge to the discharge of our respective duties, that in age we may enjoy the happy reflections consequent on a well-spent life.

**FREEMASONRY** in the early days consisted of three Degrees: The Entered Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master Mason, together with the Holy Royal Arch. Later, in the United States, the Holy Royal Arch was severed, starting the York Rite, continuing and expounding the lessons taught in Symbolic Masonry.

**IN ROYAL ARCH MASONRY**, we are taught how to obtain more knowledge for future use for a better life.

**SOME OF US** are fortunate to have had occupations that allowed us to participate in our Lodges and Chapters, while others were not so fortunate. But anyone who has supported his Lodge and Chapter fifty years has supplied a great service to the organizations.

*ONE* We have in our midst one who has carried out the Masonic instructions and, as a member of fifty years is entitled to be recognized and paid tribute. Representing the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, I am here to extend this honor and give recognition due our veteran Brother and Companion.

**OR**

*SEVERAL* We have in our midst several who have carried out the Masonic instructions and, as members of fifty years are entitled to be recognized and paid tribute. Representing the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of the State of Missouri, I am here to extend this honor and give recognition due our veteran Brethren and Companions.

## **SUGGESTED CEREMONY 50-YEAR SERVICE AWARD**

**EARLY IN OUR MASONIC CAREER**, we were taught never to engage in any great or noble purpose without first invoking the aid and blessing of Deity. I shall, therefore, call on Companion (or Excellent Companion) \_\_\_ to invoke a blessing upon this endeavor.

\* \* \* *(all rise)*

**CHAPLAIN:** Almighty God, we lift our hearts to Thee in love and joy this night. Bless this Companion, who for fifty years has served our Fraternity. Crown his head with a touch of Thy hand that he may enjoy serenity, health, and long life in our midst. Make eternal light to shine upon him, that he might be warmed by Thee, as we have been warmed by his companionship. O, Lord, brighten his years with the breath of Thy Holy Spirit, and let him understand of our fraternal love. In the name of our Supreme Architect, we ask this. Amen.

\* *(all be seated)*

**COMPANION CAPTAIN OF THE HOST**, you will conduct our honored Companion(s) to the Altar. *(If present, each Companion's wife and friends may also be brought to the Altar.)*

**COMPANION SECRETARY**, you will read the service record of [this / these] distinguished Companion(s).

*Done*

**COMPANIONS**, you have listened to the service record of [this / these] distinguished Companion(s), such service of which we might all be proud.

*(Conductor of the Ceremony goes to the Altar)*

**NOW, MY COMPANION(S)**, on behalf of your Chapter and your Grand Chapter, I present you with this emblem of distinguished and honorable service, the 50-Year Jewel of a Royal Arch Mason, and this Certificate attesting thereto. This Jewel is but small recompense for your service to Royal Arch Masonry, but does make it known of your attachment to this branch of Masonry. Wear your Jewel proudly and enjoy it.

*Read 50-Year Certificate*

*Conduct Recipient(s) to East for Remarks*

*End of Ceremony*