

Presentation
Ceremonies for
Masonic Veteran's
Awards



GRAND LODGE, A.F. & A.M.,
OF VIRGINIA

Presentation of Twenty-five Year
Masonic Veterans' Emblem

Presenting Officer:

Brethren, we are assembled here at this hour to honor (one) (those) who (has) (have) attained twenty-five years of Masonic service. Let us stand while the Chaplain leads us in prayer. (*Call Lodge up.*)

Chaplain:

Most holy and glorious Lord God, help us to show toward our fellow men that kindness which we expect from them. Give us strength that we may never be forced to turn from any Brother who may need our assistance. Make us quick to hear the cry of the suffering and turn our feet toward the house of sorrow.

We humbly thank Thee, O Lord, for the many blessings Thou hast showered upon our beloved Fraternity and pray that we may be enabled to help break down the barriers of selfishness and ignorance which keep men from Thee.

These and all things we ask in the name of the Supreme Architect of the Universe.—Amen.

Presenting Officer: (Seats Lodge)

Brother Secretary, you will read the Masonic record of Brother(s) _____ whom we are to honor by the presentation of the Twenty-five Year Veterans' Emblem of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Secretary:

Reads full name, date of Initiation, Passing and Raising of the recipient(s) of the emblem. If the (Brother) (Brethren) be an affiliate of the Lodge, the date of (his) (their) affiliation should also be read, also, offices held, if any.

Presenting Officer:

I will ask that a committee composed of _____ and _____ present (our Brother) (our Brethren) at the foot of the East. (If circumstances warrant, provide chair(s) for recipient(s).)

Presenting Officer:

Your Brethren are proud that your (name) (names) appear in the roster of this Lodge. Your Grand Lodge is proud that you are (a member) (members) of a Lodge in this Grand Jurisdiction.

A quarter of a century has passed, perhaps all too rapidly, since you knocked at the West Gate. With the passing of these years, many friendships have developed and you have cherished them knowing that each labored for the same righteous cause.

May God grant you many more years that you may enjoy these friendships and that you may continue to fulfill the time-honored tenets of our ancient and honorable Order.

Be pleased to accept at this time a token of our esteem. May you wear it with much pleasure and pride. May the thought of its possession serve as a constant challenge to labor even more diligently in the quarries of Freemasonry. Thus your life and the lives of all with whom you come in contact will prove more pleasing and acceptable in the eyes of our Supreme Grand Master.

The recipient(s) are then received in the East by the Presenting Officer, who will call Lodge up and present the recipient(s) to the Lodge and if (he) (they) (has) (have) served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will cause (him) (them) to be saluted and invite _____ to respond.

If all recipients have not served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will call for a round of applause and invite _____ to respond.

The recipient(s) will be reconducted to (his) (their) seat(s) by the committee.

(This ceremony is intended to be performed by the District Deputy Grand Master, an Officer of the Grand Lodge, a Past Grand Master or the Grand Master. It may, however, be performed by the Worshipful Master of the recipient's Lodge, or by someone designated by him, if this is desirable.)

(This ceremony may be used either as a Lodge or as an open ceremony.)

(If open ceremony, do not cause recipient(s) to be saluted, but call for a round of applause.)

Presentation of Fifty Year
Masonic Veterans' Emblem

Presenting Officer:

Brethren, the ritual of our Freemasonry points to the fact that the three steps delineated therein are symbolic of the three stages of human life, Youth, Manhood and Old Age. We are assembled here at this hour to honor (one) (those) who (has) (have) occupied (his) (their) mind(s) in the attainment of useful knowledge; who (has) (have) used that knowledge to aid (him) (them) in the discharge of the respective duties of (his) (their) lifetime as these relate to God, (his) (their) neighbor(s) and (himself) (themselves) and, who now (comes) (come) that we may render (him) (them) the honors of age and that this honor may add to the happy reflections which must be (his) (theirs) on attaining fifty years of Masonic service.

Brother Secretary, you will read the Masonic record of Brother(s) _____ whom we are to honor by the presentation of the Fifty Year Veterans' Emblem of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Secretary:

Reads full name, date of Initiation, Passing and Raising of the recipient(s) of the emblem. If the (Brother) (Brethren) be an affiliate of the Lodge, the date of (his) (their) affiliation should also be read, also, offices held, if any.

Presenting Officer:

I will ask that a committee composed of _____ and _____ present (our Brother) (our Brethren) at the foot of the East. (If circumstances warrant, provide chair(s) for recipient(s).)

Presenting Officer:

Brother(s) _____ Freemasonry has taught a proper reverence, respect and veneration for age, recognizing in the passing of the years an inevitable increase in knowledge. These years of life have a further significance when they have been spent in the service of Freemasonry and in a life dedicated to the uplift of man, the service of those who walk the paths of life with us and to the glory of God. We look to age for wisdom and upon wisdom Freemasonry builds the walls of each of its laudable enterprises.

Many years ago you approached the altar of Freemasonry in the midst of your Lodge and, there in the presence of your Brethren, assumed the solemn obligations which are the cement that unites us in one common bond, a society of friends and Brothers. As such, we are dedicated to those high principles which have enabled our Freemasonry to withstand the ravages of time and fortune. The length of your service in the cause to which you were bound by those obligations is full acknowledgement of their worth and value.

One of the great and time-honored lessons of Freemasonry teaches us that we should never enter upon any great and important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. As this marks a milestone in your Masonic life, let us again invoke His divine blessing: *(Call Lodge up.)*

Chaplain:

Most holy and glorious Lord God, Thou hast promised where two or three are gathered together in Thy name, Thou wilt be in the midst of them and bless them. Bless us as we are assembled together on this occasion. Grant unto the (Brother) (Brethren) who (has) (have) served Thee so long and faithfully, the gifts of life, health and happiness and that these may be complete, give unto (him) (them) out of Thy bounty, the needs of the physical body that (he) (they) may remain strong for that further service which Thou mayst require of (him) (them).

And, we beseech Thee, O Lord, as our Brethren enter the sunset slopes of life and the shadows of the evening approach, that they may have release from every burden, grace to meet their every need and a sense of Thy abiding presence which will give them that peace that passeth human understanding. These and all of the unspoken prayers and petitions for Thy blessings, we ask in the name of the Supreme Architect of the Universe, to whom be glory and honor now and forever. □ Amen.

Presiding Officer: (Seats Lodge)

In the Great Book of the Law which rests upon our altars is recorded the fact that length of life is the reward of the righteous. Three score and ten are the years of our life and if this allotted span is exceeded, the added years are the gift of the Lord to his sons who fear His Name.

It is now my privilege to call attention to the Veterans' Emblem which you will receive this evening. It is of gold, the precious metal of the ancients, cast in the form of a circle, the symbol of unity and embordered with blue, the color of the heavens, to signify the lasting qualities of our friendship for those who are linked together by the indissoluble chain of sincere affection found in Freemasonry. It has imprinted upon its face the Seal of the Grand Lodge of

Virginia, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons. Superimposed around the top of the circle is the inscription "Masonic Veteran" and beneath the circle are the words "Fifty Years."

Brother(s) _____, by virtue of the authority vested in me and on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Virginia, it is now my privilege to present you with this emblem as a token of the esteem and respect of your Brethren, your Lodge and the Grand Lodge. May you wear it with much pleasure and take pride in the years which have earned for you the right to possess this cherished symbol of service. May your days be long upon the land which the Lord, Thy God, has given you and may the auspicious solemnities of this evening be as a mantle of love upon your shoulders.

The recipient(s) are then received in the East by the Presenting Officer, who will call Lodge up and present the recipient(s) to the Lodge and if (he) (they) (has) (have) served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will cause (him) (them) to be saluted and invite _____ to respond.

If all recipients have not served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will call for a round of applause and invite _____ to respond.

The recipient(s) will be reconducted to (his) (their) seat(s) by the committee.

(This ceremony is intended to be performed by the District Deputy Grand Master, an Officer of the Grand Lodge, a Past Grand Master or the Grand Master. It may, however, be performed by the Worshipful Master of the recipient's Lodge, or by someone designated by him, if this is desirable.)

(This ceremony may be used either as a Lodge or as an open ceremony.)

(If open ceremony, do not cause recipient(s) to be saluted, but call for a round of applause.)

Presentation of Sixty Year
Masonic Veterans' Emblem

Presenting Officer:

Brethren, we are assembled here at this hour to pay honor to (a venerable and distinguished Brother) (venerable and distinguished Brethren) who (has) (have) spent three score years in the service of Freemasonry and to those to whom (he) (they) (is) (are) bound by the sacred ties of brotherhood.

Brother Secretary, you will read the Masonic record of Brother(s) _____ whom we are to honor by the presentation of the Sixty Year Veterans' Emblem of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Secretary:

Reads full name, date of Initiation, Passing and Raising of the recipient(s) of the emblem. If the (Brother) (Brethren) be an affiliate of the Lodge, the date of (his) (their) affiliation should also be read, also, offices held, if any.

Presenting Officer:

I will ask that a committee composed of _____ and _____ present (our Brother) (our Brethren) at the foot of the East. (If circumstances warrant, provide chair(s) for recipient(s).)

Presenting Officer:

Brother(s) _____, you have afforded us much pleasure by your presence on this memorable occasion. The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia has recorded with much gratification the passage of sixty years since you approached the altar in your Lodge and assumed the obligations that made you a Master Mason. Our Grand Lodge now desires that you receive the emblem of a Sixty Year Masonic Veteran as a token of fraternal esteem and respect.

My Brethren, as Masons we are taught never to begin any great and important undertaking without invoking the blessing of Deity. On this occasion let us call down the blessings of the Supreme Architect upon our honored (Brother) (Brethren) and the Fraternity which inspired (his) (their) devoted services for three score years. (*Call Lodge up.*)

Chaplain:

Most holy and glorious God, Thou who has blessed Thy sons with the ideal of brotherhood and gathered them together with ties of fraternal affection, accept our hearty thanks for our (Brother) (Brethren) whom we would honor and for the Institution of Freemasonry and all those who espouse the cause of its ideals, its morality and its brotherly love. We give Thee thanks for the example of fidelity afforded us in the (life) (lives) of our (Brother) (Brethren) who (has) (have) served Thee and Freemasonry over the years of a lifetime. The light of peace and honor brighten the even tide of (his) (their) (life) (lives) and fill (his) (their) heart(s) with faith in Thy infinite love and tender mercy. When (he) (they) (has) (have) completed (his) (their) earthly labors and Thou shall call (him) (them) to (his) (their) long home, may (he) (they) be welcomed by the Supreme Grand Master as (a Craftsman) (Craftsmen) who need(s) not to be ashamed. □ Amen.

Presenting Officer: (Seats Lodge)

My (Brother) (Brethren): The passing of the years have called upon you to witness many changes in life and to see both good and evil at work in our world. Within the pathway of these years you have seen the time-honored tenets of friendship, morality and brotherly love manifested in the lives of those who are Freemasons, even as they stand out in your own life. Their value to you is attested by your long association and steadfast attachment to our Order.

It now becomes my privilege to present you the emblem of a Sixty Year Mason in the name of the Grand Master of Masons in Virginia, who is the representative of every Mason in our Commonwealth. Accept it as a token of our esteem and fraternal affection for you. May the thought of its possession enrich your life as you reflect upon the love of all of your Brethren, in whose name it is presented.

Brother Chaplain: You will close the solemnities of these ceremonies by invoking the benediction of the Supreme Architect. (*Call Lodge up.*)

Chaplain:

May the Lord bless you and keep you; may the Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious unto you; may the Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace, now and forever more. □ Amen.

Presenting Officer: (Seats Lodge)

The recipient(s) are then received in the East by the Presenting Officer, who will call Lodge up and present the recipient(s) to the Lodge and if (he) (they) (has) (have) served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will cause (him) (them) to be saluted and invite _____ to respond.

If all recipients have not served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will call for a round of applause and invite _____ to respond.

The recipient(s) will be reconducted to (his) (their) seat(s) by the committee.

(This ceremony is intended to be performed by the District Deputy Grand Master, an Officer of the Grand Lodge, a Past Grand Master or the Grand Master. It may, however, be performed by the Worshipful Master of the recipient's Lodge, or by someone designated by him, if this is desirable.)

(This ceremony may be used either as a Lodge or as an open ceremony.)

(If open ceremony, do not cause recipient(s) to be saluted, but call for a round of applause.)

Presentation of Seventy Year
Masonic Veterans' Plaque

Presenting Officer:

Brother(s) _____, your presence on this memorable occasion affords your Brethren great pleasure and we welcome you into our midst.

Your Lodge and your Grand Lodge have noted, with interest, your Masonic journey which spans nearly three quarters of a century and it is the desire of the Grand Lodge that suitable recognition be given as an indication of the fraternal esteem in which you are held by your Brethren.

Brother Secretary, you will read the Masonic record of Brother(s) _____ whom we are to honor by the presentation of the Seventy Year Veterans' Plaque of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge, Ancient, Free and Accepted Masons of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Secretary:

Reads full name, date of Initiation, Passing and Raising of the recipient(s) of the plaque. If the (Brother) (Brethren) be an affiliate of the Lodge, the date of (his) (their) affiliation should also be read, also, offices held, if any.

Presenting Officer:

I will ask that a committee composed of _____ and _____ present (our Brother) (our Brethren) at the foot of the East. (If circumstances warrant, provide chair(s) for recipient(s).)

Presenting Officer:

Brethren, let us stand while the Chaplain offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings which are ours and for the presence of the one(s) we hail as our honored guest(s). (*Call Lodge up.*)

Chaplain:

Supreme Architect of the Universe, we acknowledge before Thee that to fear Thy holy name is a crown of wisdom and maketh peace of mind and perfect health to flourish. All of these Thou hast showered down upon our beloved Brother(s). Grant unto (him) (them) and to us some new vision of Thy truth; inspire us with the spirit of joy and gladness. Send down Thy peace that we may

rest confident in Thy protection this night, that we may go to our rest in tranquility and trust.

These and all things we ask in Thy holy name, to whom be honor and glory, world without end. □ Amen.

Presenting Officer: (Seats Lodge)

In Freemasonry, the grand aim is the building of manly character. It is also the aim of our Fraternity that we should build wisely and well. In seeking the nearest-perfect materials, we go to the quarries of the daily lives of men and select the living-stones offered.

The very life of our Institution is shaped and colored by the vision of those selected, and to preserve their achievements, we must strive to leave solid foundations upon which future generations may build.

While the Operative Craftsman uses perishable brick or stone and cements it into one common mass, the Speculative Workman uses the living-stones, which when properly united with the cement of brotherly love and affection, constitute an edifice, eternal in the heavens; thus we are fashioned by our ideals. Only those who are true and faithful can expect life to become noble and truly great.

It is with great pleasure and pride that I present you with the plaque of a Seventy Year Masonic Veteran on behalf of your Lodge and with the congratulations and regards of the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Virginia.

The recipient(s) (is) (are) then received in the East by the Presenting Officer, who will call Lodge up and present the recipient(s) to the Lodge and if (he) (they) (has) (have) served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will cause (him) (them) to be saluted and invite _____ to respond.

If all recipients have not served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will call for a round of applause and invite _____ to respond.

The recipient(s) will be reconducted to (his) (their) seat(s) by the committee.

(This ceremony is intended to be performed by the District Deputy Grand Master, an Officer of the Grand Lodge, a Past Grand Master or the Grand Master. It may, however, be performed by the Worshipful Master of the recipient's Lodge, or by someone designated by him, if this is desirable.)

(This ceremony may be used either as a Lodge or as an open ceremony.)

(If open ceremony, do not cause recipient(s) to be saluted, but call for a round of applause.)

Presentation of Eighty Year
Masonic Veterans' Plaque

Presenting Officer:

Brethren: it is our privilege today to pay a tribute of respect and esteem to an honored member of _____ Lodge No. _____. Freemasonry has always taught a proper reverence and veneration for those whose years have brought them to positions of eminence in our Craft. Happy, indeed, is the occasion when years of age stand united with years of service, and when an honor may be conferred upon a Brother who is both worthy and esteemed.

Masons have learned that we progress through life in three principle stages: Youth, Manhood, and Age. In youth, we may occupy our minds in the attainment of youthful knowledge; in manhood, we may apply that knowledge to the discharge of our duties; so that in age, we may enjoy the happy memories of a life well spent.

Our present gathering affords an opportunity to reflect upon the past; and from experiences of the past, the present generation receives that useful counsel and guidance which enables us to erect a more glorious future. To those of mature years, we look for wisdom, and upon wisdom Freemasonry builds each laudable enterprise.

With great pride and pleasure, therefore, we now welcome an honored Brother on an occasion, we trust, which will be a crowning moment in his Masonic life. Let us give our attention to the Secretary as he reads the full Masonic record of the Brother who is the guest of honor this evening.

Secretary:

Reads full name, date of Initiation, Passing and Raising of the recipient(s) of the plaque. If the (Brother) (Brethren) be an affiliate of the Lodge, the date of (his) (their) affiliation should also be read, also, offices held, if any.

Presenting Officer:

I will ask that a committee composed of _____ and _____ present (our Brother) (our Brethren) at the foot of the East. (If circumstances warrant, provide chair(s) for recipient(s).)

Presenting Officer:

Brother _____: I welcome you on this very special evening in your Masonic career. Many years ago, you came to this Lodge to assume solemn obligations designed to make a lasting impression upon your mind, and to serve as an uplifting and ennobling influence upon your life and character. You now come to receive a recognition that comes only to those who are blessed by the Supreme Architect to live in a minimum of ten decades upon this earth.

Early in your Masonic career, you were taught never to enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. We should, therefore □ with the utmost reverence and humility □ offer our supplications to the God and Father of us all that our labors may in all things meet with His approval.

Brethren, let us stand while the Chaplain offers a prayer of thanksgiving for the blessings which are ours and for the presence of the one(s) we hail as our honored guest(s). (*Call Lodge up.*)

Chaplain:

Vouchsafe Thine aid, Almighty Father of the Universe, to this our present convention. In Thee, O Lord, did we put our trust in days long past; Thou art still our refuge and our fortress. For a thousand years in Thy sight are as but yesterday when it is past, and as a watch in the night. Grant especially unto this Thy servant the blessings of life, health, strength, and the daily provisions of Thy good will and all-wise providence. Give to him and all of us, we beseech Thee, wisdom from on high to direct our steps, strength to carry on Thy work here below, and the beauty of holiness to render all our performances acceptable in Thy sight. Let goodness and mercy follow us all the days of our lives that we may someday dwell in the House of the Lord forever. □ Amen.

Presenting Officer: (Seats Lodge)

Within the radiant pages of the Great Light which rests upon Freemasonry's altar, we read again and again of the blessings bestowed upon the man who is privileged to walk humbly with his God through a long and honorable life. In the Proverbs, it is written:

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the holy is understanding, for by Me thy days shall be multiplied, and the years of thy life shall be increased."

Eighty years ago, you remembered your Creator in the days of your youth. Today, we commemorate a lifetime of Masonic fellowship. Each Mason serves his Craft in a different manner. Some give of their time; others add loyalty and steadfast devotion. But to all of us, our gentle Craft gives far more than we can give to it, even in a lifetime of service such as we honor this evening. Thus, when we pay tribute to you on your eightieth anniversary as a Master Mason, we also pay tribute to our Fraternity which opened its portals to you, and which made it possible for you to build your life on the sublime principles it inculcates.

The recipient(s) (is) (are) then received in the East by the Presenting Officer, who will call Lodge up and present the recipient(s) to the Lodge and if (he) (they) (has) (have) served as Worshipful Master, the Presenting Officer will cause (him) (them) to be saluted.

And now, my Brother, it is with great pleasure and pride that I present you with the plaque of an Eighty Year Masonic Veteran on behalf of your Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Virginia as a visible token of their fraternal love and grateful appreciation for your many years of faithful service.

(Display plaque for all to see.)

May you look upon this plaque in health, happiness, and prosperity as our Lord continues to bless you in all your undertakings. May the joy of this moment abide with you always, and may you ever stand, as once you stood, in the Northeast corner □ a just and upright Mason, worthy to be known as a son of God.

Present plaque to the recipient(s), and permit him (them) to respond if he (they) desire(s). The **Presenting Officer** then escorts the Brother(s) to his (their) seat(s).

(This ceremony is intended to be performed by the District Deputy Grand Master, an Officer of the Grand Lodge, a Past Grand Master or the Grand Master. It may, however, be performed by the Worshipful Master of the recipient's Lodge, or by someone designated by him, if this is desirable.)

(This ceremony may be used either as a Lodge or as an open ceremony.)

(If open ceremony, do not cause recipient(s) to be saluted, but call for a round of applause.)