



Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Utah

Royal Arch Awards and Recognition Packet

- Keystone Award

- Ephraim Kirby Award

- Distinguished Service Medals

- Ritual Jewel

- Veterans Jewel

- Sweetheart Award

GRAND CHAPTER ROYAL ARCH MASONS OF UTAH



Application for Keystone award

The Chapter Award is called the Keystone Award – As the Principle Arch of the Temple of Solomon relied on the Keystone wrought by such great a man as Hiram Abiff, the award given by each Chapter in Utah should represent the qualities of the keystone as well as the man who wrought it. (One Award per Chapter Per Year)

Selection of nominee to be made by Awards Committee or High Priest.

Please print or type.

Nominee

Name: Address:

City:

State:

Zip:

Phone:

E-mail:

Chapter Name & Number:

We wish to nominate the above named Companion for the following reasons:

Use additional paper if necessary

Signed:

Page 1 of 1

Keystone Award Nomination form

**KEYSTONE AWARD
RULES
AND
REGULATIONS**

The Chapter Award is called the Keystone Award – As the Principle Arch of the Temple of Solomon relied on the Keystone wrought by such great a man as Hiram Abiff, the award given by each Chapter in Utah should represent the qualities of the keystone as well as the man who wrought it.

RULES:

1. Committees should be appointed for award recipients by the High Priest, Illustrious Master and Commander, of each York Rite Body no later than December 31st of each year. These Committees will serve from January 1st until a successor is appointed. It is suggested that Past Elected Officers serve on these committees, and could be past award recipients as well.
2. Awards should be made as the committee recommends, and as approved by the Grand High Priest, Illustrious Grand Master, and Grand Commander, but each award is limited to no more than one annually. Awards are to be made only when the committee makes a recommendation and do not have to be given at specified intervals. It is not necessary to make an award each year.
3. The committee should review the membership each year and ascertain if the Chapter, Council, and/or Commandery has a worthy Companion or Sir Knight who should be considered for each award. The report should be made to the respective head of each body. The High Priest, Illustrious Master and Commander reports the recommendation to the Grand High Priest, Illustrious Grand Master, and Grand Commander respectively.
4. All recommendations for these awards are to be reviewed by the Grand High Priest, Illustrious Grand Master, and Grand Commander, or their designees and all such recommendations shall have the final approval of the Grand High Priest, Illustrious Grand Master, and Grand Commander respectively.
5. Preparations for the presentations of these awards should be made by the current head of each body and under guidelines of each of the committees.
6. The Grand High Priest, Illustrious Grand Master and Grand Commander, or their representatives should be invited to be present and assist in the presentation of each of the awards.

QUALIFICATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS:

1. In order for a member to be eligible for either of these awards, He must have at least 5 years of continuous service as a Royal Arch Mason, Cryptic Mason, or Knight Templar respectively.
2. Regular attendance and support of the York Rite Bodies should be considered.
3. Ritual performance should be considered, but is not required or mandatory for consideration of the awards.
4. Service as an Officer is not required, but should be considered by the committee.
5. Members who have been suspended and then reinstated should be strictly reviewed as to the circumstances of the suspension and all factors taken into consideration.
6. Members for consideration of these awards should be distinguished by exceptional character, and humility, with regard to service to The York Rite Bodies.
7. Membership in Honorary or Invitational Bodies is not required, but such membership and activity could be considered as secondary factors.

AWARD PLANNING, REQUESTS AND FEES:

- The High Priest, Illustrious Master, and Commander of each Constituent York Rite Body shall appoint a committee of 3 members to select the recipients of the awards.
- The committee will review the membership and select a worthy Companion to be considered to receive The Keystone Award, The ISH SODI Award, and a Worthy Sir Knight for the Meritorious Service Award.
- These recommendations will be forwarded to The Grand High Priest, Illustrious Grand Master, and Grand Commander respectively through the Office of The Grand Secretary/Recorder, at least 3 weeks prior the anticipated presentation date.
- A FEE OF **\$25.00** SHALL ACCOMPANY the recommendation for each of the 3 awards. This fee covers the cost of the awards, as well as a certificate suitable for framing.
- The recommendations will be considered by the Grand High Priest, Illustrious Grand Master, and Grand Commander respectively, and notifications will be made through the Office of The Grand Secretary/Recorder, the award recipients are approved or denied.
- *The Grand York Rite is 100 percent behind recognition of your nominee. Everything will be done to accommodate your request. Denials will only be made for just cause by the Grand Head of the body.*
- The award recipients will be recognized at the Grand York Rite of Utah Annual Sessions and their names will be printed in the proceedings of The Grand York Rite of Utah.

The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International



Dick E. Browning
General Grand Secretary
P. O. Box 34037
Little Rock, AR 72203-4037
501-375-9038
e-mail: ggs.dbrowning@ggcrami.org

Organized October 24, 1797

PROPOSAL FORM FOR EPHRAIM KIRBY AWARD

Date: _____

Jurisdiction: _____

Payment for award: (select one) ___ Candidate pays; ___ Grand Chapter pays (how?) _____

___ Other (explain) _____

Name of candidate: _____

Address: _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Tel. numbers: _____ e-mail address: _____

Grand offices held:

National offices held: _____

Qualifications:

Recommended by Custodian Name: _____

Custodian's address: _____

City: _____ ST _____ Zip _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

Approval by General Grand Chapter officers: _____



**General Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons, International**

Distinguished Service Medal



BRONZE

**Award Nomination
Instructions and Forms**

“Dignity does not consist in possessing honors,
but in deserving them.” - Aristotle

Revised 2024

AWARD CRITERIA

A. PURPOSE

The Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze (DSMB), offered by the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International (GGCRAMI), is an excellent modus to recognize the leadership, commitment, and resolve of Companions that dedicate their time to ensure the bond of their word; that establish all their actions and deeds as honorable; and demonstrate unyielding faithfulness to the tenets of Royal Arch Masonry. Yet, as these Companions sojourn through Capitular Masonry, awards and titles are not the primary markers of their success. For them, there is no road too rugged or honor too distant to the Companion who labors in the noble and glorious undertaking of rebuilding the House of the Lord without the hope of fee or reward. It is for these reasons GGCRAMI reserves award of the DSMB to those Companions that do not currently serve as an elected Officer of a Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, or earned the exalted title of Past Grand High Priest. Any other qualifications, limitations or restrictions shall be imposed by the Grand Chapter as it may deem appropriate.

B. INSTRUCTION

For instructional purposes, several forms are included in this nomination packet to assist a Grand Chapter in selecting and managing award of a Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze. The sample letter written on Grand Chapter stationery to the General Grand Chapter, and Award Nomination Form may be used as contained herein or modified in format as it may best suit the needs of the Jurisdiction. However, ALL information MUST be provided not less than forty-five (45) days before the scheduled date of the Annual Grand Convocation. This deadline is critically necessary to ensure all information is complete and accurate; materials are ordered, engraved and shipped; and schedules may be accommodated if special presentation is requested. Additional forms in this packet are also made available to Grand Chapters in support of the selection process, but are NOT required to be utilized, completed or submitted to GGCRAMI in selection of a nominee.

C. QUALIFYING

Please note, the instructions and examples are specific ONLY to the Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze. Inquiries for qualifying criteria to bestow a Distinguished Service Medal in Silver or Gold should be directed to the regional Deputy General Grand High Priest; while criteria for the Ephraim Kirby Award may be found online at the GGCRAMI website. Examples of Companions eligible for and excluded from consideration to receive the Distinguished Service Medal in Bronze include:

- Any companion in good standing who has not served as a Chapter High Priest (eligible)
- A Companion serving as an aide or assistant to a Grand Chapter Officer (eligible)
- A Companion who has served as a constituent Chapter High Priest (eligible)
- A Past High Priest serving as an appointed officer in a line of Grand Chapter Officers (eligible)
- A Past High Priest serving as an elected officer in a line of Grand Chapter Officers (excluded)
- A sitting or Past Grand High Priest (excluded)
- A Past Grand High Priest serving as an officer in a constituent Chapter (excluded)
- A Past Grand High Priest serving as an officer in a Grand Chapter (excluded)

Nominations submitted for Companions “excluded” from consideration shall be rejected!



GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER OF ROYAL ARCHMASONS INTERNATIONAL
DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD IN BRONZE
(ONE AWARD PER JURISDICTION PER YEAR)

Selection of nominee to be made by Awards Committee or Grand High Priest.

Please print or type

Jurisdiction: _____

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Chapter Name & Number: _____

We wish to nominate the above named Companion because: _____

Approved by: _____

(Grand High Priest, or Chairman Awards Committee, or Grand Secretary)

Return 60 days prior to your Annual Session to:

General Grand Secretary

GGCRAMI

PO Box 34037

Little Rock, AR 72203-4037



**General Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons, International
Distinguished Service Medal**



SILVER

**Award Nomination
Instructions and Forms**

“Dignity does not consist in possessing honors,
but in deserving them.” - Aristotle

Revised 2021

AWARD CRITERIA

Distinguished Service Medal in Silver

A. ISSUE

Instituted in 1972, the Silver Distinguished Service Medal shall be limited to one per Triennium for each of seven (7) U.S. Royal Arch Regions and four (4) At-Large Royal Arch Masons who have demonstrated continuous exemplary service, comprehensive initiative, and faithful dedication to the improvement of Royal Arch Masonry that reflects the highest honor and traditions of this ancient and noble craft.

B. INSTRUCTION

Nominations for the Silver Distinguished Service Medal may be submitted by any Royal Arch Mason in good standing, sent to the Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest in a manner, similar in form indicated in the attachment, and in the format (original or e-file) as may be determined by the DGGHP. Recommendation for award of the Silver Distinguished Service Medal should be sent via U.S. Postal Service (hardcopy) with original signature(s) to the attention of the General Grand High Priest for approval. An e-file may also be submitted in support or confirmation of receipt but must be accompanied by the original recommendation.

It is highly recommended the Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest closely review all nominations received, but forward only one (1) final recommendation to the General Grand High Priest. If more than one (1) recommendation is submitted per region, the General Grand High Priest reserves the right to make the final selection without consultation with the DDGHP.

C. ELIGIBILITY

All Royal Arch Masons in good standing are eligible to receive the Silver Distinguished Service Medal except those Companions currently serving as an elected or appointed Grand Chapter Officer. No nominated Companion is required to have been previously recognized by award of the Bronze Distinguished Service Medal or other Masonic decoration.

Moreover, each Regional Deputy General Grand High Priest may exercise their discretion and reject any nomination as may be appropriate, nor is a DDGHP required to submit at least one (1) recommendation per Triennium. The General Grand High Priest further reserves the honor and privilege to determine the area, nature, or other consideration(s) for award of the At-Large honorees.

D. PRESENTATION

The Silver Distinguished Service Medal may be presented by the General Grand High Priest, or by delegation with or of the Deputy Grand High Priest representing the region and others as may be determined. Prior to presentation, the recipient's name shall be engraved on the bar supporting a red ribbon from which the medal is affixed. In the event an honoree is unable to attend the Triennial Session, the Silver Distinguished Service Medal shall be mailed to the address indicated by the honor, via the U.S. Postal Service from the office of the General Grand Secretary.



AWARD NOMINATION

Distinguished Service Medal - Silver

Maximum of one DSM (Silver) Award per Region per Triennium

I. IDENTIFICATION

(Clearly PRINT or TYPE information)

Nominee Name: _____
(Full name as it appears on Masonic membership role)

Jurisdiction: _____ **Rank/Title:** _____
(PGHP, PHP, etc.)

Awardee Name: _____
(Name companion would prefer engraved on medal – limit 28 characters)

Mailing Address: _____
(Complete street address where medal should be mailed if not presented in person)

II. INSTRUCTIONS

*****Award Nomination MUST be received not less than 90 days before GGCRA MI Triennial Session*****

DGGHP Name: _____
(Deputy General Grand High Priest managing award)

DGGHP Email: _____ **Telephone:** _____

Mailing Address: _____
(Complete street address where medal is to be mailed: temple, secretary, etc.)

Special Presentation Request: _____
(Indicate special request/circumstances for medal presentation)

Endorsement: _____ **Date:** _____
(DGGHP Signature or Authorized Designee)

III. CITATION

(Attach additional pages as necessary)



**General Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons, International
Distinguished Service Medal**



GOLD

**Award Nomination
Instructions and Forms**

“Dignity does not consist in possessing honors,
but in deserving them.” - Aristotle

Revised 2021

AWARD CRITERIA

Distinguished Service Medal in Gold

A. ISSUE

Instituted in 1951, the Distinguished Service Medal in Gold is the most prestigious decoration awarded at the Triennium to individuals by the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International. The award recognizes consistent and extraordinary meritorious service over a period of years to the public and/or has consistently demonstrated exemplary contribution to Capitular Masonry well beyond expected performance, ingenuity, and resourcefulness.

B. INSTRUCTION

The depth and scope to warrant special recognition must be direct, profound and make an indelible impact in one of four meritorious categories: 1) Public Service; 2) Arts and Sciences; 3) Business Achievement; or 4) Royal Arch Masonry where other forms of recognition by GGCRAMI would be inadequate.

Any Royal Arch Mason in good standing may recommend award of the Gold Distinguished Service Medal in any one of the four indicated meritorious categories. Recommendations for award should be sent via U.S. Postal Service (hardcopy) with original signature(s) directly to the General Grand High Priest. An e-file may also be submitted in support or confirmation of receipt but must be accompanied by the original recommendation. A sample cover letter and recommendation form are provided for guidance but are not required to be submitted using the same form or format. However, all information must be included in the recommendation, and shall detail the nature of outstanding service and contributions that established a sustained impact in the categorial award field at the national or international level.

C. ELIGIBILITY

Honorees of the Gold Distinguished Service Medal are not required to be a member of any Masonic fraternal order, nor is a recipient required to have been previously recognized by award of the Silver Distinguished Service Medal or other Masonic decoration. However, an awardee must be a Royal Arch Mason in good standing if recognized for distinguished service to the Craft. Up to three (3) signed letters of support are welcomed to accompany the recommendation, but self-nominations in any meritorious category are not encouraged.

D. PRESENTATION

The General Grand High Priest will consult with the General Grand King and General Grand Scribe prior to approval of a received recommendation. However, the General Grand High Priest reserves the right to reject any, and all, recommendations, as well as make award one (1) Gold Distinguished Service Medal in one or more categories. Further, it shall be to the honor and privilege of the General Grand High Priest to present the Gold Distinguished Service Medal(s) at the Triennial Session of the General Grand Chapter. Prior to presentation, the recipient's name shall be engraved on the bar supporting a red ribbon from which the medal is affixed. In the event an honoree is unable to attend the Triennial Session, the Gold Distinguished Service Medal shall be mailed to the address indicated by the honor, via the U.S. Postal Service from the office of the General Grand Secretary.



AWARD NOMINATION

Distinguished Service Medal - Gold

I. IDENTIFICATION

(Clearly PRINT or TYPE information)

Nominee Name: _____
(Full name as it appears on official records)

Jurisdiction: _____ Rank/Title: _____
(For Masonic Nominees only) (PGHP, PHP, etc.)

Awardee Name: _____
(Name honoree would prefer engraved on medal – limit 28 characters)

Mailing Address: _____
(Complete street address where medal should be mailed if not presented in person)

II. INSTRUCTIONS

*****Award Nomination MUST be received not less than 90 days before GGCRAMI Triennial Session*****

Companion Name: _____
(Royal Arch Mason offering nomination)

Email Address: _____ Telephone: _____

Mailing Address: _____
(Complete street address for receipt of official correspondence.)

Special Presentation Request: _____
(Indicate special request/circumstances for medal presentation)

Letters of Support Attached: Yes No If Yes, How Many? _____

Endorsement: _____
(Signature) (Date)

III. CITATION

(Attach additional pages as necessary)



General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International

Ritual Jewel



“Training programs shouldn't be designed to deliver competence; they must be dedicated to producing excellence. Serious organizations don't aspire to be comfortably above average.” - Brandon Webb, MLB Pitcher

Revised 2018

Ritual Jewel

A. PURPOSE

The purpose of Capitular ritual training is to strengthen the significance of Royal Arch Masonry, enlighten the mind, and polish the spirit of the candidate, as well as any exalted Companion. However, labored excellence in the quarries of our Craft can only be achieved through habituation of training, study and discipline. The General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International is therefore pleased to recognize Companions who excel in the ritualistic presentation of the Capitular Degrees by award of a Ritual Jewel. This prestigious honor is provided by the General Grand Chapter RAMI to Companions who have demonstrated a high level of proficiency in their ritualistic endeavors, as determined eligible by an established scoring system.



B. REQUIREMENTS

Every Royal Arch Mason is eligible to earn a Ritual Jewel. Requirements are based on a cumulative point system in presentation of various roles within the Capitular Degrees. The Companion must perform the qualifying part from memory on at least two (2) occasions for actual candidates. Performance must also be witnessed and attested by one of the following qualifying Companions: 1) Current holder of General Grand Chapter Ritualistic Jewel; 2) a Past or Current General Grand Custodian of the Work; 3) a Past or Current Grand High Priest of a constituent Grand Chapter; or 4) Chairman of a Ritualistic Work Committee of the qualifying Companion's Grand Chapter.

Point credit shall only be allowed for each separate degree character part exemplified, not for multiple performances of the same part. For example, if a Companion satisfactorily performs the role of Principal Sojourner on the occasion of four (4) different degree conferrals, he may only earn three (3) points, not 12 points (4 degree conferrals x 3 role points). Lastly, all points may be earned only on degree conferrals performed after January 1, 2000.

To begin the process of improving and testing Capitular ritual proficiency, companion applicants may use the Ritual Jewel Scoreboard form available in these instructions or request same from the Grand Chapter Secretary of their jurisdiction.

C. ELIGIBILITY

There shall be a no "mistakes" quota. Each applicant is expected to perform an especially credible job in the part he is exemplifying. This condition indicates performance should therefore be grounded on accurate word memorization as well as vocal tone, inflection and articulation; and includes correct floor work, gestures and dramatic use of tools and props appropriate to the part.

The following table illustrates the several parts in the Capitular Degrees determined eligible for consideration. The Companion applicant may accumulate any total point combination of 12 or greater to qualify for the General Grand Chapter Ritual Jewel:

Award Point(s)	Capitular Degree	Exemplification Character Part
3	Mark Master Degree	Right Worshipful Master
3	Royal Arch Degree	High Priest (Jeshua)
3	Royal Arch Degree	Principal Sojourner
3	Royal Arch Degree	Lecture
3	Mark Master Degree Most Excellent Master Degree Royal Arch Degree	Master Overseer, and Senior Deacon, and Captain of the Host
2	Past Master Degree	Right Worshipful Master
2	Most Excellent Master Degree	Right Worshipful Master (1st Section)
2	Mark Master Degree	Lecture
2	Most Excellent Master Degree	Lecture
2	Mark Master Degree Most Excellent Master Degree Royal Arch Degree	Senior Deacon, and Senior Warden, and Haggai
1	Royal Arch Degree	Master of the First Veil
1	Royal Arch Degree	Master of the Second Veil
1	Royal Arch Degree	Master of the Third Veil

D. CERTIFICATION

Upon completion of the minimum 12-Point requirement, signed by qualifying Companion(s) as identified in section B. Requirements, the Companion applicant should deliver the completed Ritual Jewel Scoreboard to the Grand Chapter Secretary. ***(Be sure to make a copy of the original document and have the Grand Chapter Secretary endorse the duplicate scoreboard as an “official copy” in case of loss in the mail.)***

Upon receipt, the Grand Chapter Secretary should certify the completed original by signature and affixed seal of the Grand Chapter, and mail the certified “Ritual Jewel Scoreboard” to the General Grand Secretary, General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, International. The jurisdictional Grand Secretary should further indicate the recipient name and complete street mailing address where the Ritual Jewel should be delivered from the General Grand Chapter.

The cost of the Ritual Jewel (including shipping) shall be borne by the General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International. No cost(s) for the Ritual Jewel should be passed to the qualified Companion.



General Grand Chapter
Royal Arch Masons, International



RITUAL JEWEL SCOREBOARD

1. MARK MASTER DEGREE: Right Worshipful Master Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 3 Points
2. PAST MASTER DEGREE: Right Worshipful Master Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 2 Points
3. MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE: Right Worshipful Master (Section 1) Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 2 Points
4. ROYAL ARCH DEGREE: High Priest (Jeshua) Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 3 Points
5. ROYAL ARCH DEGREE: Principal Sojourner Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 3 Points
6. MARK MASTER DEGREE: Lecture Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 2 Points
7. MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE: Lecture Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 2 Points
8. ROYAL ARCH DEGREE: Lecture Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 3 Points
9. MARK MASTER DEGREE: Senior Deacon and MOST EXCELLENT MASTER DEGREE: Senior Warden and ROYAL ARCH DEGREE: Haggai Date: _____ 1st Attest: _____ Date: _____ 2nd Attest: _____ 2 Points



Application for Veterans Jewel



Please print or type

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

I certify that I am a member of _____ Chapter No. _____

Under the jurisdiction of the Grand Chapter of _____ and is

Affiliated with the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International.

NAME for TOP BAR _____

RANK – Branch of Military for LOWER BAR _____

A check in the amount of \$ **25.00** accompanies this application.

Mail to: General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, Intl

P.O. Box 34037

Little Rock, AR 72203

Allow six weeks for processing and shipping.



SWEETHEART AWARD Application

General Grand Chapter Royal Arch
Masons, International

Ladies Name _____

Jurisdiction _____

Date & Occasion to be awarded. _____

Recommended by:

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

Zip _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

Please complete the form and send check in the amount of \$ 100.00 to:

General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons, International
P.O. Box 34037
Little Rock, AR 72203-4037

Please allow 60 days to process award.

Note: All awards will be sent to the Grand Secretary unless otherwise requested.

PRESENTATION CEREMONY FOR THE GENERAL GRAND CHAPTER SWEETHEART AWARD

(NOTE: This ceremony is suitable for use at the Annual Banquet of the Grand Chapter or other suitable public occasion to honor the recipients of this Award. It may be modified to suit the occasion as required.)

GHP – Grand High Priest, or other official making the presentation.

GM – Grand Marshal of Ceremonies

GS – Grand Secretary

M – Medalist

GHP: Companion Grand Marshal of Ceremonies (GM rises). It has come to my attention that there are present with us tonight certain ladies who are to be honored by our Grand Chapter with a singular recognition. You will therefore make strict search as our Grand Secretary reads their names and present them and the Companions accompanying them before me.

GM: Most Excellent Sir, it shall be done. *(To the audience)* Ladies, as your name is called by our Grand Secretary will you and the Companion accompanying you please rise and permit me to escort you both to our Grand High Priest?

GS: *(Reads names of recipients, one at a time, as the GM escorts them to a position before and facing the GHP)*

(After all honorees are in position, GM says:)

GM: Most Excellent Grand High Priest, those ladies selected to be honored with the recognition of the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Masons International Sweetheart Award, and the Companions accompanying them are now before you.

GHP: Ladies, we honor you this evening for the outstanding service and dedication that you have rendered over a sustained period to Royal Arch Masonry in general and this Grand Chapter in particular. Before proceeding, however, it is but fitting that those ladies present who have previously received this or a similar Award from their respective Grand Chapters should share with you the joy of this momentous occasion. If you will now turn and face the audience, I would ask all ladies present who have previously been honored to rise and remain standing. *(GHP pauses while they do so)*

Behold, those about to be honored, as well as those who have already been honored. Tonight we are pleased to recognize all of you as being those ladies who have truly labored for the betterment of Royal Arch Masonry “without the hope of fee or reward.” Brethren and Companions, join me in applauding these outstanding volunteers in service to our Craft.

(Companions applaud. Then GHP asks audience to be seated and the honorees to turn and face him)

GHP: I will now call upon our Medalist to explain to you the significance of this Award. *(Seated)*

M: *(holding award for honorees to see or, even better, using a drawing or photo of it projected onto a screen)* Ladies, the Sweetheart Award consists of a red enameled heart, bearing the words “Sweetheart Award” and in the upper left corner, the seal of the General Grand Chapter, Royal Arch Masons International. The red heart symbolizes the affection and esteem we hold for you as ladies who have given of their time and resources unstintingly to assist us in advancing the aims and programs of Royal Arch Masonry. You have truly been “sweethearts” to the Royal Arch Masons of this state.

As you are probably aware, Masonry is an organization that illustrates its teachings through the use of symbols. So, too, does this medal contain a symbolism not readily apparent to the uninstructed. You will notice that the heart contains a brilliant white zircon stone. Further, you see the heart is superimposed upon a golden filigree setting; the outer portion of which contains eight scalloped sections. These sections allude to the eight attributes the ancients imparted to zircons: Intuition, Truth, Stability, Righteousness, Protection, Prosperity, Wisdom, and Honor – all of which we believe those who receive this award possess in abundance. The white zircon was fittingly chosen because it, like the heart, symbolizes love and devotion – those attributes which you, through cheerful and unselfish service, have evidenced for our fraternity. *(M is now seated)*

GHP: *(Rises)* And now, but one thing remains: to bestow upon you that symbol of recognition which your love and devotion for Royal Arch Masonry have so richly merited. Let each Companion place this symbol upon his lady in the place of honor, over her heart. *(Companions receive awards and pin them on the ladies)*

And now, again receive our hearty thanks. You may be seated.

*****FINIS*****