



# **Grand Council Cryptic Masons of the State of Utah Awards Booklets**



- Ish Sodi Award Pages 3-4
  - Local award, \$25 fee and application sent to Utah Grand Recorder
- 10% Council Membership Gain Certificate Page 5
  - National Award, PRICE - COMPLIMENTS of the GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL, application sent to Utah Grand Recorder and these certificates will be sent for inclusion during awards ceremonies at the Annual Assembly of the Grand Jurisdiction.
- First Responders Award Page 6
  - National Award, application sent to Utah Grand Recorder, RECIPIENTS - Any Qualified First Responder, This Includes Past, Service - Retirees or Those Who Went on to Other Careers are Eligible, SPONSOR MUST BE - Any Cryptic Mason, AWARDED - Upon Submission/At Event AWARDING - Community Service. PRICE - \$25.00 - Master Mason - Medal and Certificate \$5.00 - Add Lapel Pin, \$15.00 - Non-Master Mason - Lapel Pin and Certificate
- Veterans Service Award Pages 7-8
  - National Award, \$25 fee and application sent directly to General Grand by a member requesting it.
- Lady of the Council Award Pages 9-10
  - National Award, \$125 Fee from submitter. Submitted directly to the General Grand or Grand Recorder, not chosen by committee. This is usually for members who want to recognize their spouse/S.O. (This is a fundraiser for General Grands general fund)
- Adult Youth Leadership Award Pages 11-12
  - National Award, application sent to Utah Grand Recorder RECIPIENTS - Rainbow, Jobs, DeMolay, or Triangle Youth Advisor, SPONSOR - Most Illustrious Grand Master, AWARDED - Annual Awards/At Event, AWARDING - Service to Masonic Youth Groups, PRICE - COMPLIMENTS of the GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL, Replacement Medal - \$25.00, Replacement Pin - \$10.00, Replacement or Retroactive Certificate - \$5.00
- Cryptic Mason of the Year Award Pages 13-14
  - National Award, application sent directly to General Grand by a member requesting it RECIPIENT - Cryptic Mason, SPONSOR - Most Illustrious Grand Master, AWARDED - Annual Awards, AWARDING - Exemplary Service, PRICE - COMPLIMENTS of the GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL (Annual), Replacement Medal - \$25.00, Replacement Lapel Pin - \$10.00, Replacement or Retroactive Certificate - \$5.00
- The Columbian Award Pages 15-18
  - National Award chosen Regionally, No money sent, WHO IS ELIGIBLE – ANY living Cryptic Mason in Good Standing, WHEN – Awarded at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council, WHY - Exemplary Service to their Cryptic Journey and Cryptic Masonry, AUTHORIZATION - Elected General Grand Officers
- Ritualist Award for the Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master Degree Page 19
  - National Award, WHO - Cryptic Mason, WHEN - Upon Completion, WHY - Ritual Proficiency, AUTHORIZATION - Grand Recorder, Cost is however much local Grand body wants to spend on the award.
- Henry William Mordhurst Award Page 20
  - National Award, WHO - Grand Recorder, WHEN - 10 Years' Service, WHY - Service Recognition, AUTHORIZATION - General Grand Recorder Cost is however much local Grand body wants to spend on the award.
- Medal of Honor Page 21
  - National, WHO - Cryptic Mason, WHEN - Triennial Assembly, WHY - Outstanding Service, AUTHORIZATION - Elected General Grand Officers NO COST
- Order of the Secret Vault Award Page 22
  - National Award, No money sent, not chosen by committee, but by appointed "College Dean" of forwards the final decision on to the College of Preservation to make the final decision.

\*Print the page of the award you wish when you are in the print menu by choosing “pages” and putting a “-“(dash) between the pages for example Keystone would 18-19. \*

## Grand Council Royal and Select Masons Utah



### APPLICATION FOR ISH SODI AWARD

**The Council Award is called the "ISH SODI" Award – As Cryptic Masons we are taught "ISH SODI" means "Select Man, or Man of My Choice." The Council Award should represent Select Men. (One Award per Council 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:

Council Name & Number:

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

*Use additional paper if necessary.*

Signed:

# “Ish Sodi Award”

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

**The Council Award is called the “ISH SODI” Award – As Cryptic Masons we are taught “ISH SODI” means “Select Man, or Man of My Choice.” The Council Award should represent Select Men.**

### **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. 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, regarding 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 Council of  
Cryptic Masons, International

10% Council Membership Gain Certificate

It is hereby certified that:

\_\_\_\_\_

Council No. \_\_\_\_\_ of the Grand Jurisdiction of

\_\_\_\_\_

Has increased its overall membership during the year from \_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_.



\_\_\_\_\_  
MIGM/MPGM First Name Middle Name Last Name Suffix

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grand Recorder First Name Middle Name Last Name Suffix

\_\_\_\_\_  
Jurisdiction Y R Date of Presentation

\_\_\_\_\_  
Complete Mailing Address (where awards are to be sent)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address Telephone

Unless otherwise stipulated in correspondence, this award will be sent for presentation at the Grand Assembly of a Grand Council. For Constituent Councils of the General Grand Council, please contact the General Recorder for arrangements of presentations to your Council if other than the Annual Meeting. For more information or to plan for presentation of this award, please contact Stephen A. Balke, General Grand Recorder +01 (505) 730-7189 or email him at [ggrcrec@gmail.com](mailto:ggrcrec@gmail.com).



The General Grand Council of  
Cryptic Masons, International

## First Responder Award



The Award Requested is:

- Medal (for a Master Mason in Good Standing) - \$25.00 US
  - Add Lapel Pin - \$5.00
- Lapel Pin (for any qualified First Responder) - \$15.00 US

### Requestor (Cryptic Mason)

First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
Council	No.	Jurisdiction	Relationship to Recipient/Office
Complete Mailing Address			
Email Address	Telephone		

### Recipient Information

Full Name (Print Clearly)	Firefighter, EMT, Paramedic, Law Enforcement
Email Address	Telephone
Jurisdiction (*if Master Mason)	Lodge*
Preferred Date	Event
Number*	Location
Event <input type="checkbox"/> Address Above <input type="checkbox"/> Deliver Award to...	

### Completing the Order:

Please return this completed form with payment payable to ***Cryptic Masons International***.

Payments may be made via the website – <https://marketplace.crypticmasons.org>, or by using PayPal and directing payment to [gcrec@gmail.com](mailto:gcrec@gmail.com). Please add a 5% convenience fee for all orders paid through PayPal.

Cryptic Masons International  
 Attn: Stephen A. Balke  
 PO Box 365  
 Estancia, New Mexico 87016-0365

For more information or to plan for presentation of this award, please contact Stephen A. Balke, General Grand Recorder +01 (505) 730-7189, or use the email above.

# Veterans Medal



## RECIPIENTS - Military Veteran

- SPONSOR CAN BE - Any Cryptic Mason
- AWARDED - Upon Submission/At Event
- AWARDING - Military Service
- HOW MUCH - \$25.00

The ability to honor Veterans and their service on behalf of their country was implemented in September of 2018. Service above self is one of the most laudable characteristics a Companion can embody, and Cryptic Masons International has developed the Cryptic Mason Veterans Medal to distinguish those among us who have answered that call.

The Cryptic Mason Veterans Award is rich in symbolism and honors a Veteran's Service while simultaneously displaying the character of Cryptic Masonry.

- In its center, it has the title “Veteran”, along with the Broken Triangle emblem from the Seal. This not only refers to the Cryptic Degrees, but also alludes to the concept that “All gave some, but some gave all.”
- Surrounding this is a Golden ring with 27 stars, representing the 27 who were chosen to work in the Secret Vault, and selfless service to benefit mankind.
- Enclosing this ring is a 9-pointed star, composed of 9 silver trowels. This references the 9 arches of Cryptic Masonry, as well as the spreading of that mystic cement which unites us as a band of Brothers.
- Behind these are the laurel leaves, which signify this award comes from the General Grand Council and represents the laurel leaves of victory.

It is our honor to make this award available to all Cryptic Masons who have served, and we hope that all Veterans who are Cryptic Masons will wear it with such pride and honor that it may distinguish you as a Select Master whose dedication to service has been tried, tested and proven.



# Lady of the Council



RECIPIENTS - Any Lady

- SPONSOR CAN BE - Any Cryptic Mason
- AWARDED - Upon Submission/At Event
- AWARDING - Service/Support
- PRICE - \$125.00

Cryptic Masons know and appreciate the help and support of their ladies. The General Grand council has developed an Award to recognize and honor these Ladies for outstanding dedication and support to Cryptic Masons.

The Award is a beautiful gold and purple pin with the Cryptic Mason's emblem surrounded by a gold wreath. Each pin will be accompanied with a numbered certificate, which will be recorded by the General Grand Recorder. These names and numbers will also be published in the Triennial Proceedings. We will try to present these awards at your Grand Sessions, or at the Regional Conferences, or where you would like to have them presented.

The Lady of the Council award is available through your Recorder, Grand Recorder or from the General Grand Council. Proceeds in excess of the associated expenses are placed into the Corporate Fund.

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## Adult Youth Leadership Award



- RECIPIENTS - Rainbow, Jobs, DeMolay, or Triangle Youth Advisor
- SPONSOR - Most Illustrious Grand Master
- AWARDED - Annual Awards/At Event
- AWARDING - Service to Masonic Youth Groups
- PRICE - COMPLIMENTS of the GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL
  - Replacement Medal - \$25.00
  - Replacement Pin - \$10.00
  - Replacement or Retroactive Certificate - \$5.00

Many people ensure the future of our society by supporting the Masonic Family Youth Organizations. Advisors, Dads and Moms are an integral part of keeping these organizations operating and offering the opportunity and knowledge of how to lead a moral and well-balanced life to our maturing generations and offer opportunities for their members to be exposed to the adult organizations.

As of the 33rd Triennial, the General Grand Council makes available one Adult Youth Leadership Award to each Grand Council to recognize a volunteer from the International Order of Rainbow for Girls, Jobs Daughters International or DeMolay International within their jurisdiction. We currently also support the Organization of Triangles, Inc., a youth organization for young ladies between the ages of 10 and 21 years old, in New York State. In 1996, this award became available to recognize non-Masons, including ladies. Since 1978, some hundreds have been awarded, but this award is currently under-utilized as a method of encouraging the support of youth groups and the awareness of the Council. The following rules apply to the dissemination of the award:

- A. One medal may be awarded annually in each Grand Council.
  - B. Only one medal may be awarded triennially in each Constituent Council of the General Grand Council.
  - C. Each Grand Council and each Constituent Council shall determine its own method of selecting their nominee.
  - D. No posthumous awards shall be made.
  - E. The award shall be made for exceptional and meritorious service above and beyond the call of duty.
  - F. The General Grand Recorder shall be given the Annual Awards Form for a Grand Council filled out in full by the Grand Recorder at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Grand Assembly (or date of presentation if different), forty-five (45) days if outside the continental United States. Constituent Councils shall give the form with the information of the selected Cryptic Mason at least six months prior to the next Triennial Assembly. These timelines allow for engraving, packaging, and shipping, as well as some time for ensuring that all arrives as it should.
  - G. The General Grand Recorder shall cause the name of the honoree to be engraved upon the medal and forwarded to the Grand Recorder or Recorder, if to a Constituent Council, at the earliest time following receipt of the completed form.
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# The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International

## Adult Youth Leadership Award



\_\_\_\_\_

MIGM/MPGM First Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Suffix

\_\_\_\_\_

Grand Recorder First Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Suffix

\_\_\_\_\_

Jurisdiction

\_\_\_\_\_

Year

\_\_\_\_\_

Date of Presentation

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address (*where awards are to be sent*)

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

### Adult Youth Leadership Award Recipient Information

\_\_\_\_\_

First Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Middle Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Last Name

\_\_\_\_\_

Suffix

\_\_\_\_\_

Complete Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

\_\_\_\_\_

Youth Organization

\_\_\_\_\_

Role/Position

Please send this form to the address to the right or email to Stephen A. Balke, General Grand Recorder [ggcrec@gmail.com](mailto:ggcrec@gmail.com). Other Awards You May Want to Order:

Cryptic Masons International PO  
Box 365  
Estancia, New Mexico 87016-0365 USA

Ritual Award  
Veterans Medal

10% Gain Certificate  
First Responder Award

Mordhurst Medal  
Lady of the Council

## Cryptic Mason of the Year



- RECIPIENT - Cryptic Mason
- SPONSOR - Most Illustrious Grand Master
- AWARDED - Annual Awards
- AWARDING - Exemplary Service
- PRICE - COMPLIMENTS of the GENERAL GRAND COUNCIL (Annual)
  - Replacement Medal - \$25.00
  - Replacement Lapel Pin - \$10.00
  - Replacement or Retroactive Certificate - \$5.00

The 32nd Triennium of the General Grand Council saw the establishment of this award for each Grand and Subordinate Council to recognize one Select Master “for outstanding service to Cryptic Masonry.” Since 1975 several hundred have been awarded, and each Constituent Cryptic Grand Master is given the opportunity to recognize one Companion from the jurisdiction who exemplifies the attitude and activities of a Cryptic Mason, and from our Constituent Councils, one for the Triennium.

This honor is bestowed on a Companion who is from the “rank and file” and continuously works over and above the expectations of a member. This outstanding Select Master should be selected using the following criteria:

- A. Only one medal may be awarded annually to a Cryptic Mason in each affiliated Grand Council.
  - B. Only one medal may be awarded triennially to a Cryptic Mason in each Constituent Council of the General Grand Council.
  - C. Each Grand Council and each Constituent Council shall determine its own method of selecting the Cryptic Mason of the Year in its jurisdiction.
  - D. No posthumous awards shall be made.
  - E. The award shall be made only for exceptional and meritorious service to Cryptic Masonry above and beyond the call of duty. No Past or Present Grand Master, or any advancing line officer of a Grand Council shall be eligible for this award.
  - F. The General Grand Recorder shall be given the Annual Awards Form for a Grand Council filled out in full by the Grand Recorder at least thirty (30) days in advance of the Grand Assembly (or date of presentation if different), forty-five (45) days if outside the continental United States. Constituent Councils shall give the form with the information of the selected Cryptic Mason at least six months prior to the next Triennial Assembly. These timelines allow for engraving, packaging, and shipping, as well as some time for ensuring that all arrives as it should.
  - G. The General Grand Recorder shall cause the name of the honoree to be engraved upon the medal and forwarded to the Grand Recorder or Recorder, as appropriate, at the earliest time following receipt of the completed forms.
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# The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International

## Cryptic Mason of the Year

_____	_____	_____	_____
MIGM/MPGM First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
_____	_____	_____	_____
Grand Recorder First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
_____	_____	_____	_____
Jurisdiction	Year	Date of Presentation	
	r		



Complete Mailing Address (*where awards are to be sent*)

\_\_\_\_\_

Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone

### Cryptic Mason of the Year Recipient Information

_____	_____	_____	_____
First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Suffix
_____			
Complete Mailing Address			
_____	_____		
Email Address	Telephone		
_____	_____		
Council Name and Number	Highest Cryptic Office Held		

Please send this form to the address to theright or email to Stephen A. Balke, General Grand Recorder [ggcrec@gmail.com](mailto:ggcrec@gmail.com). Other Awards You May Want to Order:

Cryptic Masons International  
PO  
Box 365  
Estancia, New Mexico 87016-0365 USA

Adult Youth Leadership  
Mordhurst Medal

Ritual Award  
Veterans Medal  
Lady of the Council

10% Gain Certificate  
First Responder Award



# The General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International

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Dear Illustrious Master,

The Columbian Award is the second highest honor for a Cryptic Mason to receive.

**WHO IS ELIGIBLE** – ANY living Cryptic Mason in Good Standing

**WHEN** – Awarded at the Triennial Assembly of the General Grand Council  
**WHY** - Exemplary Service to their Cryptic Journey and Cryptic Masonry  
**AUTHORIZATION** - Elected General Grand Officers

Named for what is reputed to be the first organized Council of Royal Masters in the United States – Columbia Council No. 1 of New York, which was organized September 2, 1810 – This is an award of merit for service given at the Regional level. Each Triennial, one is awarded to an outstanding Cryptic Mason for each of the Regions of the General Grand Council (now 13), and a maximum of an additional three at large awards given. This award was approved by the General Grand Council during the 33rd Triennial.

When completed, this form is to be sent to the **Regional Deputy General Grand Master for your Region** with a copy to ggrec@gmail.com. The Regional Deputy must then submit his endorsements to the **General Grand Recorder by March 15, 2020**. A copy should be sent to the Most Illustrious Grand Master of your Grand Jurisdiction.

The award shall be considered only for exceptional and meritorious service to Cryptic Masonry above and beyond the call of duty. **ANY MEMBER, GRAND OFFICER, OR PAST GRAND OFFICER IN GOOD STANDING IS ELIGIBLE FOR THIS AWARD.**

We hope you will bring to our attention those Companions who should be considered for this award, it is worth the effort and time to highlight their service to our gentle Craft.

Please contact me if you have any questions – 01 (505) 730-7289 or ggrec@gmail.com

Stephen A. Balke General Grand  
Recorder

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## Regional Deputy General Grand Masters

When the form is completed, please forward to your Regional Deputy with a copy [toggrec@gmail.com](mailto:toggrec@gmail.com).

<i>Region</i>	<i>Regional Deputy</i>	<i>Jurisdictions (State or Country)</i>
<b>Africa</b>	Marc K. Adote ataadote@yahoo.fr	Gabon, Togo, and Madagascar
<b>Asia/Pacific</b>	Jonathan E. Chua joedchua@yahoo.com	Philippines, Republic of China (Taiwan), and Japan
<b>Central America</b>	Marcos D. Ostrander marcosomulford@hotmail.com	Panama, Estados Unidos de Mexico UD, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, and Mexico
<b>East Central</b>	Stephen R. Striggow srstriggow@comcast.net	Indiana, Kentucky, and Michigan
<b>Europe</b>	Norman R. Draine normanbonby@aol.com	Austria, Croatia, Cyprus, France, Germany UD, Greece, Italy, Portugal, and Romania
<b>North Central</b>	Anthony T. Johnstjark@cox.net	Iowa, Minnesota, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wisconsin
<b>NortheastNorth</b>	Charles A. McCollum mccollumcharles1@gmail.com	Maine, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, and Vermont
<b>NortheastSouth</b>	James B. Walsh anglersmarina@yahoo.com	Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, and New Jersey
<b>Northwest</b>	Robert A. Farrow mayday1@cableone.net	Alaska, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, and Wyoming
<b>South America</b>	Leonardo H. Sant'Anna leosantanna@gmail.com	Brazil, Peru UD, Venezuela UD, and Paraguay
<b>South Central</b>	John L. Logan jllogan33@gmail.com	Alabama, Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Missouri, and Oklahoma
<b>Southeast</b>	Larry R. Gillespie lgilles533@aol.com	Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina
<b>Southwest</b>	James G. Baum swrdggm@gmail.com	Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico, and Utah

**NOMINATION FOR COLUMBIAN AWARD**

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Council # \_\_, in the jurisdiction (state if USA or country) of \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ located at \_\_\_\_\_.

**A Committee of the above Council makes the following nomination for the Columbian Award for the 2017-2020 Triennium.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
First Name                      Middle Name                      Last Name                      Suffix  
;

Complete Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
Email Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Phone #**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Lodge Name and Number                      Date Raised                      Highest Symbolic Office Held

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chapter Name and Number                      Date Exalted                      Highest Capitular Office Held

\_\_\_\_\_  
Council Name and Number                      Date Greeted                      Highest Cryptic Office Held

\_\_\_\_\_  
Commandery Name and Number                      Date Knighted                      Highest Chivalric Office Held

\_\_\_\_\_  
Valley Name and Orient                      Date 32°                      Highest AASR Office Held

I/We attest that this form with the following Merits and Qualifications sheets contains information that is true and valid to the best of our understanding.

Attest \_\_\_\_\_ Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
Illustrious Master                      Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_



## Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master Proficiency



- WHO - Cryptic Mason
- WHEN - Upon Completion
- WHY - Ritual Proficiency
- AUTHORIZATION - Grand Recorder

On Saturday, February 27, 2016, the Grand Council of Alabama approved the request of the General Grand Council to assume the responsibility of administering a Ritualist Award for the Royal Master, Select Master, and Super Excellent Master Degrees. This award will be given for work from February 27, 2016, forward.

The requirements for this award are specific to each of the degrees and focus on actual delivery. The best way to track accomplishments is to keep a diary of sorts that can be verified by the Illustrious Master and Recorder of the Council where the work is performed. When the requirements are met, the final verification is completed by the Grand Recorder, the NOMINATION FORM, and then sent to the General Grand Recorder for the issuance of the Jewel.

The structure of earning the award was based on some common considerations:

- The path reflects performance in the Council, this may map to a Companion's work as an officer – over time.
- Ritual is an important element of our craft and one deserving of flawless presentation. The expected standard of ritual delivery is from memory complete with full floor work.
- Private exemplification is not allowed, cannot be earned solely through exemplification.
- The Ritual Award and Bars should not be something easily earned.
- The criteria should not be so onerous that it dissuades Companions earning it.
- Certifiers should be qualified by both their position and their knowledge of the ritual.

The desired impacts of the Award:

- By providing a recognition mechanism and therefore incentive, Companions will earn the reward through service as officers in their Council.
- Ritual delivery from memory will be re-established as a standard expectation. The reading of ritual will occur less frequently.
- Overall, a larger population of Companions will be ritually proficient, and continue to do so as a function of time with the Ritual Award program in place.

Individual Award/Bar criteria and forms are available from your Grand Recorder. These should be submitted in full at least thirty days in advance of the desired presentation date.

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### Henry William Mordhurst Award

- WHO - Grand Recorder
- WHEN - 10 Years' Service
- WHY - Service Recognition
- AUTHORIZATION - General Grand Recorder

Henry William Mordhurst of Indiana served the General Grand Council of Cryptic Masons, International as the General Grand Recorder from September 29, 1886 until his death mid-term on October 19, 1928. Having traveled an exemplary Masonic Journey, his zeal for Cryptic Masonry shown through his forty-two years of dedicated service to the smooth operations of the General Grand Council. It is his record and recording that is referenced when a Companion steps forward and serves as a Grand Recorder for at least ten years with distinction.

The award was started by approval of the General Grand Council at the 33rd Triennial in 1978 and was initially given to any Companion serving his Grand Council as Grand Recorder for 15 years with distinction. Since adoption, there have been fifty-one medals awarded to Companions.

This award is tracked by the office of the General Grand Recorder and is awarded upon verification of election, installation, service, and completion of ten terms of office as a Grand Recorder.

## Medal of Honor

- WHO - Cryptic Mason
- WHEN - Triennial Assembly
- WHY - Outstanding Service
- AUTHORIZATION - Elected General Grand Officers

The highest award given to a Cryptic Mason, "a Brother and Companion who is revered by Masons throughout the world and one who has devoted his life to the improvement of Masonry." The Medal of Honor was approved and the first one given at the 33rd Triennial in 1978.

One is given at every Triennial Assembly to one awardee, the decision being made by the elective officers of the General Grand Council based upon recommendations from the Craft. The optimal candidate will have provided service to Masonry and who is well known in the Arts, Science, Business, Religion or Government.

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## ***Order of the Secret Vault***



The "OSV" is from the General Grand Council International and is a recognition of the Companions continued service to the Council. The Order of the Secret Vault is by invitation only and only those that have received it may make a nomination to the College Dean, who then makes the final selection and forwards the nomination on to the College of Preservation to make the final decision as to who receives the Order. Recipients of this order are known as a Companion of the Secret Vault, and receive a certificate and a jewel to wear.

The General Grand Council has started a new organization under its auspices. The organization is called the College Of Preservation. It consists of the General Grand Officers and select individuals as College Deans. These College Deans will form the core of the selection committee for Companions to be invited to join.

Yes, this is an invitation only organization. If you have been nominated and accepted for membership, an invitation letter will be sent explaining the procedures for becoming a member.

The Companions of the Secret Vault are charged to preserve the degrees of the Council and preserve the General Grand Council. The honorarium is deposited in the Corporate Foundation in an effort to build the Corporate Foundation and delay or eliminate future per capita increases. Now a portion of the earnings may be used to support the General Grand Council Budget.

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