

Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania

Suggested Ceremony for Presentation of Diamond Jubilee Award

Worshipful Master:

Brethren, we pause in our deliberations for the purpose of paying a tribute of respect to Brethren who have served in the ranks of the Masonic Fraternity for a period of 75 years.

The Years of Man are readily divisible by the symbolic number “3”

YOUTH: The springtime of life when, with vision and energy, the attainment of useful knowledge is planned.

MANHOOD: Bring to fruition the visions of Youth by performing our duties to God, our Country, and neighbor and ourselves.

MATURITY: The time for relaxation, contemplation and retrospection; the period of time, that from the experience of the past, we are able to give counsel, advise and guidance for the building of every good and laudable service for the perpetuity of Freemasonry. It is the recognizing of this phase of life – Maturity – to which we are now directing our attention.

My Brother(s), having attained this distinction, I congratulate you. That the Brethren may know of your Masonic affiliation, you will rise as the Secretary reads from our records.

(The Secretary reads the records)

Worshipful Master:

The Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Pennsylvania, recognizing this Masonic Maturity, presents the Diamond Jubilee Award. Brother _____, Representative of the Grand Master, will on his behalf present this Award.

Representative of the Grand Master:

Brother Steward, you will present the Brethren at the Altar of Freemasonry.

(The Brethren having been presented, the Representative of the Grand Master continues)

Representative of the Grand Master:

On this happy and important occasion, as we meet to honor 75 years of devotion to the Masonic Fraternity, we may seriously reflect upon those years fraught with kindly reminders of diligence in duty, liberal benevolence and diffuse charity, but, above all, 75 years of constancy and fidelity to the ideals of our ancient and honorable Fraternity.

It is written: “To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the Heaven. A time to be born and a time to die; a time to plant and a time to pluck up that which is planted; a time to weep and a time to laugh; a time to mourn and a time to dance.” The Supreme Architect of the Universe has seen fit to grant us this time in which to pay special tribute to Brother _____, who has been a member for 75 years, and we are most pleased to present this Diamond Jubilee award to our Brother as material evidence of our admiration and warm Fraternal love.

The first duty of Masons is to God; let us, therefore, unite with our Chaplain in an address to the throne of Grace.

(The Representative of the Grand Master will rap up the Lodge or ask all present to please rise.)

Chaplain:

Supreme Architect of the Universe, our Father and our God, Thy Prophet has said, "they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." You have given such renewed strength to our Brother making possible his seventy-fifth anniversary in Freemasonry. For this, accept our sincerest gratitude. Continue now to bless him with the presence of Thy Spirit. Grant him the deepest joy and friendship in the years before him; may he continue his usefulness with honor to himself and to our beloved Fraternity. Amen.

(The Representative of the Grand Master seats all present.)

Representative of the Grand Master:

Brother _____, on behalf of the Right Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Pennsylvania, I am pleased to acknowledge that you have been a member for three quarters of a century, and it is now my pleasure and privilege to present to you, not only its expressed good wishes, but also a material evidence of the respect and admiration of your Brethren.

(The Representative of the Grand Master will remove the 50-Year Emblem and place the Diamond Jubilee Award on recipient's lapel.)

Representative of the Grand Master:

This Award is especially significant of your many years in Masonry. The gold of which it is cast is sufficiently significant of that purity which marks the life and conduct of all Masons, and prominently displayed upon its face is a diamond, one of man's most precious gifts; fired in nature's cauldron of time, it is emblematic of long life and perseverance. In addition to its intrinsic beauty, it will serve as a constant reminder that you are deeply loved and greatly appreciated by all Masons. Let it be not supposed that you have here labored in vain, nor spent your strength for naught, for your work is with the Lord and your recompense with your God.

Representative of the Grand Master:

(Provide personal notes and comments, if appropriate.)

This concludes the formal presentation. Let us all congratulate Brother _____.