

Fifty-Year Presentation

WM: Brethren, it is our privilege today *to* pay a tribute of respect and esteem *to* an honored member of _____
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 principal stages - Youth, Manhood and Age. In Youth, we may occupy our minds in the attainment of useful knowledge; in Manhood, we apply that knowledge *to* the discharge of our duties *to* God, our neighbors, and ourselves; so that in Age, we may enjoy happy memories of a life well spent.

Our present gathering allows reflecting upon the past; from experiences of the past. The present receives that useful counsel and guidance which enable 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 _____
welcomes our honored Brother on an occasion, which, we trust, will be a crowning moment of his Masonic life. Let us give our attention to the Secretary as he reads the full Masonic record of
Brother _____

(Secretary reads full Masonic record)

Brother Senior Deacon, you will conduct Brother _____ to the altar.

My Brother, with pleasure we behold you before the altar of Freemasonry - that altar which you were taught to approach fifty years ago. There you assumed obligations designed to make a lasting impression upon your mind and to serve as an uplifting and ennobling influence upon your life and character. Again, you have approached the Altar of Freemasonry, this time to receive a recognition that comes only to those fortunate Brethren who have labored upon the Temple faithfully for over half a century.

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

(WM calls up the Lodge)

Prayer

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 and all-wise providence. Give to him and all of us, we beseech Thee, Wisdom from on high to direct our steps, Strength commensurate with our tasks to support us, 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 life that we may dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Amen.

Response: So mote it be.

(WM seats the Lodge)

Worshipful Master: Brother Senior Deacon, you will conduct our Brother to the East.

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

In the Proverbs of Solomon, 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.

Fifty years ago, you remembered your Creator in the days of your youth. Today we commemorate the completion of your Fifty years of Masonic fellowship. In a span of Fifty years each Mason gives of his substance;

Many give also of their time; others add loyalty and steadfast devotion. However, to all of us, our gentle Craft gives far more than we could give to it in a lifetime of service. Thus when we pay tribute to you on your golden anniversary, we pay tribute also to the Fraternity which opened its portals to you, and which made it possible for you to build your life on the sublime principles it inculcates.

(WM calls up the Lodge)

And now, my Brother, by virtue of the authority in me vested as Worshipful Master or other presenter, it is my privilege, for and on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Arkansas, to present to you the Grand Lodge 50 year Certificate and pin as a visible token of its fraternal love and grateful appreciation.

May you wear this emblem in health, happiness and prosperity, and may your days be long upon the land which the Lord our God hath given us. On a memorable occasion fifty years ago when the badge of a Mason was placed in your hands, you were admonished to wear that spotless apron with pleasure to yourself and honor to the Fraternity. Thus, I trust, will you wear this pin. 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.