

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*****