

The FIFTY YEAR GOLD MEMBERSHIP BUTTON is a gift from the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Connecticut and shall be presented to a member of a Connecticut Lodge at any time during the calendar year of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of his total membership in the Craft.

This ceremony is a Grand Lodge function and shall be conducted by a Line Officer of the Grand Lodge, a Past Grand Master or a permanent member of the Grand Lodge specifically designated by the Grand Master or his Line Officer in the given district.

Brethren and Friends, this evening it is our pleasure to pay a tribute of respect and esteem to (an) honored member(s) of \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_.

Freemasonry has always taught a proper reverence and veneration for those whose years of service have brought them to positions of eminence in our Fraternity. Indeed, it is a happy occasion when years of age stand united with years of service, and such honors may be conferred upon a Brother who is both worthy and esteemed.

Masons have learned 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 families, our neighbors, and ourselves; so that in Age, we may enjoy happy memories of a life well spent.

Our present gathering affords us an opportunity to reflect upon the past; from experiences of the past, we receive that useful counsel and guidance which enables us to erect a more glorious future. To those of mature years we look for wisdom: and upon wisdom Freemasonry builds each laudable enterprise. Early in our Masonic careers we were taught never to enter upon any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. Therefore, it behooves us, with the utmost reverence and humility, to offer our prayers to the God and Father of us all, that our labors may in all things meet with his approval.

Let us give our attention to Bro. \_\_\_\_\_,  
R.W. District Deputy, District \_\_\_\_, who will offer us prayer.

**PRAYER:**

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 these our honored Brothers, the blessings of life, health, strength and the daily provisions of Thy good and all-wise providence. Give to him/them 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).

R.W. Sir (G.L. Officer), Worshipful Master, our honored Brother(s), Brethren and Friends:

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.”*

(Proverbs, Chapter 9, Verses 10 and 11)

Will the honored Brother(s) receiving his/their pins please rise when your name is read by the Secretary.

Brother Secretary will you please read the full Masonic record of our honored Brother(s) \_\_\_\_ .

It is with great pride and pleasure that \_\_\_\_\_ Lodge No. \_\_\_\_, welcomes our honored Brother(s) on an occasion which we trust will be a crowning moment in his (their) Masonic life (lives).

W.B. \_\_\_\_\_, Assoc. Grand Marshal, District \_\_\_\_, will you please conduct our Brother(s) to the Altar.

My Brother(s), 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 a half-century.

Fifty years ago you remembered your Creator in the days of your youth. Today we commemorate the completion of your half-century of Masonic fellowship. In a span of fifty years, each Mason gives of his substance; many give also of their time; while others add loyalty and steadfast devotion.

But to all of us, our gentle Craft gives far more than we could give it in a lifetime of service. Thus, when we pay tribute to you on this celebration of your golden anniversary, we pay tribute also to the Fraternity which

opened its portals to you, and made it possible for you to build your life on the sublime principals it inculcates.

You will now be conducted to the East.

(W.M. calls up the Lodge \*\*\*).

(Optional: Conduct Brother's wife or family member to East for presentation).

R.W. Brother \_\_\_\_\_ will you read and present the 50 year Membership Certificate.

And now my Brother(s), by virtue of the authority invested in me, it is my privilege, for and on behalf of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of the State of Connecticut, to present you the Grand Lodge Award, its Gold 50 Year Membership Emblem, as a visible token of its fraternal love and grateful appreciation.

(Call upon the Brother(s) for any remarks).  
(Escorts him/them to his/their seat(s))

May each of you who are celebrating your service anniversary tonight, wear your service emblem in health, happiness, and prosperity, and may your days be long upon the land which the Lord our God hath given us.

Years ago when the badge of a Mason was placed in your hands, you were admonished to wear that spotless apron with pleasure to yourselves and honor to the Fraternity. Thus, I trust, you will wear your service award lapel pin. May the joy of this moment abide with you always, and may you ever stand as you once stood in the northeast corner - a just and upright Mason, worthy to be known as a son of God.

Custodians of the Work, 1996:

R.W. Gustaf R. Bodin  
W.B. E. John Kjellson  
R.W. George Marenholz  
R.W. Herbert R. Olson  
W.B. Elliott J. Wilcox  
W.B. H. Bradford Wylie