

**SUGGESTED CEREMONY FOR THE PRESENTATION OF THE
FIFTY-YEAR VETERAN SERVICE PIN**

(Ceremony may be open to the public. Make arrangements ahead of time to provide seating for the distinguished Companion in the East, on the immediate right of the Illustrious Master. Make sure your Chaplain is aware of his part prior to the ceremony.)

I.M.: Companions, we are met in fraternal gathering to honor, by a special tribute, a certain member of _____ Council No. _____, of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri. It is a mark of tradition to honor those Companions who have attained certain status and distinction. We are more inclined to evince our esteem when a Companion has dedicated 50 years to the tenets and service of Cryptic Masonry. Much has been accomplished for the glory and strength of our Order by the transference of 50 years of wisdom and experience from mouth to ear. The list of the privileged few who have reached that moment in time is indeed small and should be recognized with honor.

Companion Recorder, you will read the full Masonic Record of Companion *(or Illustrious Companion)* _____. *(Done.)*

(If a Grand Council Representative is available): Companions, I have the honor to present *(Most)* Illustrious Companion _____, *(Grand Master, or appropriate office)*, of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, who will present the Grand Council 50-year Veteran Service Pin.

Grand Off: Companions, we are taught early in our Masonic career never to engage any great or important undertaking without first invoking the blessing of Deity. Companion Chaplain, you will ask the blessing of the Supreme Architect on the Assembly and this very special ceremony.

Chaplain: Almighty God, we lift our hearts to Thee in love and joy this night. Bless this Companion, who for 50 years has served our Council. Crown his head with a touch of Thy hand that he may enjoy serenity, health, and long life in our midst. Let Thy eternal light shine upon him, that he might be warmed by Thee, as we have been warmed by his companionship. May our Fraternal love be forever in his heart. O, Lord, brighten his years with the breath of Thy Holy Spirit. In your name we pray. Amen.

Grand Off: Companion Conductor of Council, conduct this distinguished Companion *(and his spouse if present)* to the Altar. *(Done.)*

Companion, you are again before our Altar, but this time to receive an honor that comes but to few men. To a child, an hour is a day; and a day is an age. But with each passing year, time seems to perceptibly shorten; so that you should be able to recall the memory of the time, over 50 years ago, when you first knelt there. It is evident by your conduct, and your influence on the lives of others that the Cryptic obligations and degrees made a deep impression upon your mind and spirit.

(Goes to Altar to make presentation.) Illustrious Master, Distinguished Companions, and Companions all: The impressive Masonic Record of this Companion has been read to you. My Companion, the Grand Council of Missouri has seen fit to bestow upon you a visible emblem of the esteem they hold for you. This pin is but a small token of the appreciation of the 50 years of service you have rendered to Cryptic Masonry, but it is an honor few are privileged to receive.

Therefore, it is a great honor for me, on behalf of the Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri, to present to you this 50-year Veteran Service Pin as a gesture of our appreciation and fraternal love. *(Ask spouse to secure the Pin.)*

May you wear it with pride in your accomplishments, and honor to Cryptic Masonry. We congratulate you on your high honor. Companion *(or Illustrious Companion)* _____, may I escort you to a position of honor in the East?

Grand Off: *(If the Companion does or does not take a position in the East: Ask the distinguished Companion if he desires to make any comments. If in the East, invite him to remain in his position of honor in the East for the remainder of the meeting. Invite all to dismiss themselves by way of the East to congratulate the Companion when the Council is closed.)*

Cond. of C: *(If distinguished Companion is escorted to the East, CC conducts spouse back to her seat, otherwise, after Companion makes comments from the Altar, CC escorts the distinguished Companion and his spouse to their seats and then seats himself.)*

Grand Off: *(if public ceremony:)* Companion Chaplain, you will offer the benediction.

*Revised 8/1/98
Grand Council of Cryptic Masons of the State of Missouri
Committee on Ritual*