

HIRAM AWARD

The Grand Lodge of Minnesota HIRAM AWARD is a singular, once-in-a-lifetime recognition presented to a brother as an earned tribute for outstanding service to Freemasonry. The Master of every constituent Lodge in Minnesota is entitled to recognize one brother with this special distinction during his term of office. The local lodge should determine the criteria and method of selection. The HIRAM AWARD should not be presented posthumously. The Master of the lodge could appoint a committee of at least three to recommend possible recipients and coordinate all aspects of the program.

It is highly recommended that a special evening be planned for the presentation of this award. This is not the time to combine several award presentations into one celebration. Each dedicated brother selected for the HIRAM AWARD deserves individual recognition. His years of devoted contributions to the Craft entitle him to a night when he alone enjoys a few moments in the spotlight of applause from his brothers, family and friends. This is not designed to be a "surprise" award, for this would deprive a brother from inviting friends, family and others only he would know.

The evening should be well planned and publicized months in advance. Scheduling of the HIRAM AWARD gives your lodge an excellent opportunity to show off your lodge rooms to non-Masonic guests. The name of the recipient would be the principle attraction, as his service to others would be immediately recognizable.

A dinner for the evening would be most appropriate. An invocation should be given before dinner. If your lodge dining room is too small to accommodate a crowd, don't hesitate to find a larger facility. Try to avoid having your HIRAM AWARD ceremonies in the lodge dining area. If possible stage your program in the Lodge Room.

HIRAM AWARD events are ideal times to invite members

of the youth orders to participate in the flag salute, help with serving, etc. Don't forget to give them credit and introductions. If at all possible, the Master, lodge officers and distinguished guests are encouraged to wear tuxedos or formal attire. The evening is to be dignified. Occasionally, some type of entertainment might be injected into the program, however, **IT IS THE HIRAM AWARDEE'S SPECIAL NIGHT AND NOTHING SHOULD DETRACT FROM HIS RECOGNITION.**

A suggested program could be as follows:

1. Master of Ceremonies introduces escorts for flag if any, and leads the audience in the pledge of allegiance.
2. Master of Ceremonies introduces the Master of the Lodge.
3. Master of the Lodge welcomes members and friends and introduces the lodge officers and any special guests.
4. The Master of Ceremonies invites various brethren and friends to talk about the recipient. This is very important to do! **BE CREATIVE!** Under no circumstances should the evening be planned as a "roast" of the recipient. Careful preplanning is vital for a successful program. Alert the honoree's friends, family members and Lodge brethren to be ready to speak briefly about him.
5. The Master of Ceremonies recognizes the Grand Lodge representative who has been invited (with a brief fraternal background) and calls for comments on "what the HIRAM AWARD represents." As a representative of the Grand Master, he will pass the framed certificate to the Master of the Lodge. (The constituent lodge is to see that the certificate is suitably framed for presentation.)
6. The Master of the Lodge invites the HIRAM AWARD recipient and his spouse forward and makes a brief presentation on behalf of the Lodge. He then presents the HIRAM AWARD certificate to the recipient and invites the audience to join him in

a standing vote of appreciation.

7. The recipient of the HIRAM AWARD responds with his comments.

8. Any closing remarks may be made by the Master of Ceremonies or the Master of the Lodge (i.e. invitation for refreshments, thank you for attending, etc.).

9. The formal program should conclude with a closing prayer.

If entertainment is to be utilized, it should occur between numbers 3 and 4 above. Nothing should detract from the actual honoring of the recipient.

The Grand Lodge firmly supports the recognition of your nominee. We encourage you to take pictures and publicize this recognition in your local newspapers and lodge trestleboard. Publicize the fact that the brother selected for a HIRAM AWARD is being singled out as your local Lodge's choice for personal tribute. The success of an outstanding HIRAM AWARD event is vitally dependent upon how much effort and enthusiasm are generated by all your members, not just a few committee members. Throughout the years, keep a history of the recipients. Your lodge may wish to purchase a special plaque to hang in the lodge with each recipient's name engraved on it and the year of the award.

PROCEDURE FOR ORDERING THE HIRAM AWARD

Each HIRAM AWARD certificate should be ordered from the Grand Lodge office at least one month in advance. Send the name of the recipient, intended date of presentation, and a brief statement on why this individual has been selected to receive this award.

The Grand Lodge will have the recipient's name suitably lettered on the certificate and will forward it to the constituent lodge.

The lodge should have the certificate suitably framed for presentation. The certificate should never be presented without a frame as this would greatly detract from the dignity of the presentation. A standard 11 x 14 inch frame will nicely fit the award, or it can be matted to allow for an even larger frame.

SUGGESTED PRESENTATION BY THE MASTER OF THE LODGE:

The Grand Lodge of Ancient Free and Accepted Masons of Minnesota bestows the HIRAM AWARD upon a Mason who has served his Lodge with distinction over a period of time. The Master of each constituent lodge may recommend one brother for this peculiar and special honor only once each year. We at _____ (name of lodge) have chosen a committee to determine fairly and objectively whether we have a brother deserving of this once-in-a-lifetime distinction. It is with great Masonic and personal pride that I announce the presentation of the HIRAM AWARD to Brother _____ (name of recipient).

You may ask, "Why HIRAM?" Who is this HIRAM and why do masons choose this name for the award?

The Bible records that Hiram of Tyre was a famous artisan and builder at the construction of King Solomon's Temple in Jerusalem. In the Old Testament we read of Hiram in the First Book of Kings and the Second Book of Chronicles. King Solomon, in chapter 2 of the Second Book of Chronicles, "determined to build a house for the name of the Lord and a royal residence for himself," and Solomon sent word to Hiram or Hiram King of Tyre announcing his intentions and requesting his assistance. In response King Hiram sent building materials and his most trusted architect Hiram along with a letter of introduction which described his skills. In part, the letter read, "Now I have sent a skilled man endued with understanding, Hiram abi' son of a woman of the daughters of Dan, and his

father was a man of Tyre. He is trained to work in gold, silver, bronze, iron, stone and wood, AND in purple, blue and crimson fabrics and fine linen, and to do all sorts of engraving and to execute any design that may be assigned to him." He is further described as a cunning workman and leader who could accomplish any task assigned to him. Truly this is the description of a remarkable person.

We as Masons, have adopted the framework of building King Solomon's Temple, and the remarkable accomplishments of Hiram Abif as the central theme of our Masonic ritual. The character of Hiram who unselfishly applied himself to honor his god, better the conditions of his fellows, and who ultimately offered up his life rather than forfeit his integrity is revered by Masons and therefore forms the basis for the high honors which we confer this evening.

As we apply the biblical description of Hiram the builder to Masonry, we occasionally identify among the brethren members who cheerfully take on any task assigned to them and accomplish it fully. Our honoree this evening is such a person. Since becoming a Mason in _____(year), _____(recipient's name) has been asked to assume many responsibilities, and has volunteered for many more. At this time I would like to ask Brother _____(name) to join us and provide a short list of our honoree's achievements in Masonry. (Masonic record and achievements are read by the assisting Brother.)

Brother _____(recipient's name), on behalf of the members of _____ Lodge, it is with great personal pride that I present you with our Lodge's HIRAM AWARD for _____(year).