

The Dedicated Service Award



The distinctive white apron with purple trimming proudly worn by recipients of the Dedicated Service Award is a coveted symbol of special recognition. Its recipients have earned the right to receive and wear it by virtue of their acts and deeds. Those who have received it have had their Masonic careers reviewed on several levels before reaching the Committee on Special Awards. The Committee, in discharge of its duties, has reviewed each individual recommendation and endorsement and has satisfied itself that the necessary criteria for nominee to receive the award has been firmly established. It certifies to the Grand Master that the nominee is truly a Dedicated Mason, well deserving Grand Lodge recognition.

On October 18th, 1972, Grand Master M.'W'. Lloyd S. Cochran asked the then Junior Grand Warden (now M.'W'. Bruce Widger) to chair a special study committee, to investigate awards currently being used by Grand Lodge and to suggest creative new awards which might be appropriate. On July 19th, 1973, an initial meeting was held at the Griffis Faculty Club at Cornell Medical College in Manhattan, chaired by M.'W'. Brother Widger. Many ideas were presented and discussed. It immediately became apparent that a new award should be recommended for adoption in recognition of exemplary dedicated service rendered by a Brother and that it should be both distinctive and special. It was agreed that its criteria should encompass many different kinds of service rendered by a Brother throughout the State. As a result, a follow-up meeting was held at the Albany Hyatt House on September 23rd, 1973, where both the upstate and down-state members of the committee met and exchanged ideas. Plans were formulated for the naming of the award; its promotion; who could qualify; who could apply; how many awards were to be given; who would have to approve the recipients; and when they should be given.