

## **MEDAL FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD**

We learn from Masonic tradition as well as from our ritual that we serve our fraternity and our fellow human beings “without hope of fee or reward.” For us altruism is enough all by itself, virtue being its own reward. Nevertheless, in spite of our teachings and the merit of unselfish service, seemingly all of our fraternal Bodies find ways to reward the faithful and exemplary acts of their members.

Although Masons accept no fees for their service to the fraternity outside Lodge, ostensibly, they do not, however, refuse awards that come their way. Haven’t we heard much of this thinking from our friend, Dr. Maslow, when he wrote about esteem needs?

This Supreme Council and the Scottish Rite have long recognized the value of recognition of the outstanding contributions of its members and has rewarded many individuals and Valleys with such awards as the Van Rensselaer Membership Award, The Gourgas Medal, the Meritorious Service Award, the 33° and the Medal of Honor.

Sovereign Grand Commander McNaughton has created two new awards to recognize the outstanding accomplishments of some Scottish Rite members and even of those who are Masons but not necessarily members of the Rite.

One of the new medals is the Sovereign Grand commander’s Medal for Distinguished Service. Fifteen medals have been presented since this award was created in the spring of 2009.

The following Brothers have already received this medal along with a framed certificate commemorating the prestigious award. The names of recipients are displayed on a large plaque near the Sovereign Grand Commander’s office. Beneath the plaque there is a large book containing a tribute in honor of each recipient. Visitors are encouraged to browse through the pages of the lives of these exceptional men.

The Sovereign Grand Commander may select a recipient through his own experience or he is open to receive suggestions for the Active Membership.

Those Distinguished Service Medal recipients in chronological order are:

Ill. David W. Lovering, 33°  
Bro. Francis Scott Key, III, 32°  
Ill. Victor M Frederick, III, 33°  
Ill. Dennis R. Williamson, 33°, MSA  
Ill. Malcolm B. Wernik, 33°  
Bro. John Homa, 32°  
Ill. James S. De Mond, 33°

Ill. Morphis A. Jamiel, 33°  
Ill. Morton S. Negin, 33°  
Ill. Robert Johnston, 33°  
Ill. George E. Proctor, 33°  
Ill David J. Smith. Sr., 33°, MSA  
Ill. Frederick G. H. Meijer, 33°  
Ill. Ralph C. Wilson, 33°

The recipient of this prestigious award must have demonstrated such service to the Scottish Rite as not often witnessed among the general membership.

To those of you who have received this award and to those of you who will, we offer you are sincerest congratulations and gratitude for all you have done for the Masonic fraternity in general and for your Scottish Rite in particular.

The other newly created award instituted most recently by Commander McNaughton is the Masonic Service Medal. As the name implies, this medal, which will be featured in a future article, is awarded by the Scottish Rite to a Brother who best exemplifies the essential teachings and tenets of Symbolic Masonry such as Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth through his selfless acts in society at large. An important factor appertaining to this award is that the recipient need not be a Scottish Rite Brother, but an exemplary Mason.

To those of you who have received these awards and to those of you who will, we offer you are sincerest congratulations and gratitude for all you have done for the Masonic fraternity in general and for your Scottish Rite in particular.