

DISTINGUISHED SERVICE BRONZE MEDAL
General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International.

In 1951 the General Grand Chapter provided for the awarding of a bronze medal, to be known as the General Grand Chapter Medal for Meritorious Service. The conditions under which the Medal is awarded are set forth in the Proceedings of that year.

“Each year the General Grand Chapter will present one such medal to one Royal Arch Mason of each Grand Chapter, affiliated with the General Grand Chapter, who has performed meritorious service to the Royal Craft within his own jurisdiction. The recipient of such medal shall be chosen by a committee of his own Grand Chapter. Upon the selection of a recipient, the Grand High Priest of his Grand Chapter shall certify such selection to the General Grand High Priest who may, himself, or by proxy, make the presentation of such medal. No Past Grand High Priest or Grand officer shall be eligible to receive the medal.”

In some jurisdiction, Past Grand High Priests have received the award many years after serving as Grand High Priest for continued exceptional service to the craft. Generally - elected grand officers are not nominated for the award.

The first recipient of the Bronze Medal in Saskatchewan was V. Ex. Comp. C. Chas. Graham of Wascana Chapter #1 in 1952. The list of Bronze Medal recipients in the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Saskatchewan is published each year in the Proceedings of the Grand Chapter.

The General Grand Chapter also awards two other medals. The first is the Gold Medal. It is awarded every three years to the three Royal Arch Companions whose service has set them out for this particular honour. As a rule, one Companion is selected for his service to his country; a second because of service in a literary or cultural way; while the third is usually given for distinguished service to the Royal Arch fraternity. The recipient is named by the three principal officers of General Grand Chapter (though usually the last word belongs to the General Grand High Priest) after full consultation as to the achievements and record of those proposed. Any Royal Arch Mason may send in a suggestion, but the final decision belongs to the three officers.

The Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Saskatchewan was particularly proud in September, 1987, when the General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Gold medal was awarded to then V. Ex. Comp. Dr. Don Rennie, P.Z. of Saskatoon Chapter #4.

The silver medal is awarded once in each triennium and is selected by the Deputy General Grand High Priest of the region, in our case, the North Central Region. It recognizes the contributions of the recipient to Masonry in general and Royal Arch in particular within the region, as well as community service and involvement.

The General Grand Chapter Silver Medal was awarded for the first time in Saskatchewan in May 1987 to M. Ex. Comp. D. Bruce Saunders, P.G.Z. To date the only other recipient in

Saskatchewan has been M. Ex. Comp. James Hall, P.G.Z. of Assiniboia Chapter #15 in 2003.

General Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons International was organized October 24, 1797. It acts as a coordinating body between independent Grand Chapters, disseminating information and facilitating discussion and recognition between Grand Chapters. It has no jurisdiction over member Grand Chapters although Grand Chapters must conform to certain basic Masonic tenets in their rituals and constitutions in order to become members.