


Masonic Happenings in The Magnolia State

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WHAT WAS OLD IS NEW AGAIN

Over time, the jewels worn here in Mississippi to signify a Past Grand High Priest, Past Illustrious Grand Master, and Past Commander, have changed. Evidence of this can be quickly noticed by reviewing the various jewels held at the Grand Lodge Museum within the Grand Secretary's Office in Meridian.

Before I focus on the Past Grand Commander's jewel, let me at least note the "updates" to the Past Grand High Priest and Past Illustrious Grand Master jewels.



The Past Grand High Priest has a wreath again (this has been missing for some time), which signifies the "Grand" status of the jewel. The background of the Triple Delta is filled to allow the Hebrew text to "pop" more. This was also done with the Copestone and the Triple Tau. Finally, the jewels of the Breastplate are stones again, instead of enamel.

Perhaps the jewel with the most updates, not just a recreation of how it was decades ago (because we have only one example from 'long' ago!), is that of the Past Illustrious Grand Master. For many years the Grand Council of Mississippi has sufficed with what is, ultimately, a jewel meant for a Past Grand Master of the Symbolic Grand Lodge, with no symbology that ties it to the Cryptic Council. This jewel now features a Square & Quadrant with the Broken Triangle, Trowel, and Sword, overlaid, all on a start burst and surrounded by a wreath. The mid-bar of the jewel, where "Mississippi" is engraved, is an Arc of the Covenant, replete with cherubim's. This jewel is now, clearly, for the Past Illustrious Grand Master.



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The Grand Lodge Museum has a small selection of Past Grand Commander jewels, all of which predominantly display the Crux Immissa. Recently, Past Grand Commander jewels in Mississippi only featured the Templar Cross, in purple, to signify the Office of PGC.

We have returned to the old design, with minor updates that help simplify the design and yet remain true to its origins.

The name bar, mid bar, and jewel are all, largely, the same design as before, with a few areas filled with enamel, which really helps the details of the design stand out.

Since "Mississippi" is already shown around the Knight Templar, the State Seal was removed from the Templar Cross, to allow that Cross to show more predominantly.

I hope that recipients of these jewels will appreciate the history and attention to detail behind them, as well as the quality of the jewels themselves.

These updates and the jewels themselves are produced by Sir Knight Sid Leluan of Arizona, through his company, Lapel Pins & More.

Past Grand's who wish to "update" their jewel to these revised designs may place an order with SK Sid by calling 800-758-5890, or email sales@pinworld.com

Members will be pleased to note that the cost of updating these jewels, and to have them created each year is LESS than what the bodies were previously paying! The jewels were all updated for accuracy and quality, at a lower price!



Jared Stanley, Grand Secretary/Recorder
Grand York Rite Bodies of Mississippi