

GRAND COMMANDERY OF ALABAMA

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Website: <https://alyorkrite.org/grand-commandery/>

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HONORS IN THE YORK RITE – CHAPTER AND COUNCIL

One of our Sir Knights asked if I could provide information on the various awards in York Rite Masonry for the benefit of some of our newer members. Following is a list that with a good deal of help of Past Grand Commander George Marshal I have compiled with brief descriptions. I believe I have incorporated additions and corrections to the original list, but there may still be errors or omissions.

General Grand Chapter Medal of Honor

This award is presented by the General Grand Chapter for distinguished service to Capitular Masonry. One award per Grand Chapter is made each year upon the recommendation of the Grand High Priest of that jurisdiction. The General Grand Chapter also presents similar awards in recognition of service at the national and international level

General Grand Chapter Royal Arch Mason Ritual Jewel

Honors ritualists by presenting a jewel to those Companions who excel in ritualistic endeavors. This prestigious award is presented at no cost to Companions who qualify by performing the conferral as Master or High Priest from memory on at least two (2) occasions for actual candidates.

Lady of the Chapter

This award recognizes ladies who have supported the work of the Grand Chapter in the Grand Chapter itself or in support of the subordinate Chapters. It is presented by the Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Alabama based upon the recommendation of the Most Excellent Grand High Priest.

General Grand Council Cryptic Mason of the Year

This award, like the General Grand Chapter award, is presented by the General Grand Council to a Royal and Select Master in recognition of his achievements in advancing the work of the General Grand Council. Again, one award is presented each year based upon the recommendation of the Illustrious Grand Master.

Ish Sodi Medal

There are various interpretations of "Ish Sodi;" however, the Illustrious Grand Master at his discretion may award one or more of these distinctions to Companions in recognition of their service to Cryptic Masonry

Adult Youth Leadership Award

One or more of these awards is presented by the General Grand Council in recognition of adult leadership in our youth organizations. The recipient may be any adult serving those youth organizations.

Ladies of the Council

This award recognizes ladies who have supported the work of the Grand Council in the Grand Council itself or in support of the subordinate Councils. It is presented by the General Grand Council based upon the recommendation of the Most Illustrious Grand Master.

LOOK UP

If you put a buzzard in a pen six or eight feet square and entirely open at the top, the bird, in spite of his ability to fly, will be an absolute prisoner. The reason is that a buzzard always begins a flight from the ground with a run of ten or twelve feet. Without space to run, as is his habit, he will not even attempt to fly, but will remain a prisoner for life in a small jail with no top.

The ordinary bat that flies around at night, a remarkable nimble creature in the air, cannot take off from a level place. If it is placed on the floor or flat ground, all it can do is shuffle about helplessly and, no doubt, painfully, until it reaches some slight elevation from which it can throw itself into the air. Then, at once, it takes off like a flash.

A Bumblebee if dropped into an open tumbler will be there until it dies, unless it is taken out. It never sees the means of escape at the top, but persists in trying to find some way out through the sides near the bottom. It will seek a way where none exists, until it completely destroys itself.

In many ways, there are lots of people like the buzzard, the bat and the bee. They are struggling about with all their problems and frustrations, not realizing that the answer is right there "above" them.

-- Author Unknown

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