

OES Grand Chapter Mini-Conference  
Sunday, April 18, 2021 2:00pm – 5:00 pm.  
Register at: OESNM.Org or email Sabrinapack@gmail.com for link

If you have not done so yet it is time to commit to attending the Zoom Mini-Conference. You can find the agenda with events planned for that date on the OES website. Of the events planned I would like to emphasize two of the special events. The 50+ year member service and the Memorial Service.

One of the great privileges I had as Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of NM was to travel with the Most Worshipful Grand Master to present 50 Year Pins and Certificates to our members. It was always heartwarming to hear the Grand Master's opening statement of the ceremony to the honored Brother.

*"Brother \_\_\_\_\_ for two score and ten years you have given yourself, your substance and devotion to Masonry. This small gift is presented, then, not only as an emblem of half a century of membership in the order, but as a token of the fraternal esteem and respect of your Brethren."*

Heartwarming not just for the words spoken but that I and all the other Brethren present were indeed there to show our esteem and respect we had for the Brother and his years of Masonic service.

Worthy Grand Matron Beth McKown and Worthy Grand Patron Jeff Satterfield have structured an outstanding program to ensure our Eastern Star Grand Chapter 50+ year members are given the highest recognition possible for their service to our organization and its members. The only thing missing is our attendance at the service to show our esteem and respect for our honored Sisters and Brothers.

The Memorial Service is the other event you should not miss. Grand Chaplain Shirley Crawford has prepared a most honorable tribute to our Sisters and Brothers who have completed their earthly tasks. Once again, the only thing missing is your attendance at the service.

If you are debating in your mind whether to attend or not consider the following encouragement from the OES Funeral service.

*"Sisters and Brother, we have gathered here to pay love's tribute to the memory of Sisters and Brothers who have passed into the fulness of immortal life and now abide in the mercy and care of our Heavenly Father. We come together in loving sympathy, faith, and hope."*

This is our opportunity to pay tribute to the memory of our Sisters and Brothers.

The timing of this year's Memorial Service has another unique aspect to it. In New Mexico, with the approach of the Vernal Equinox, Masonic Bodies traditionally conduct their various memorial services. Grand Lodge conducted theirs at the Annual Communication the third week of March. The Scottish Rite conducted their Ceremony of Remembrance and Renewal on March 27th. The Shrine did theirs in early March at their Annual Communication and York Rite will do theirs at their Annual Communication in mid-April. With ours being on April 18th we join this year in that traditional time frame.

Continue to be safe and I look forward to seeing all at the Mini-Conference for a fun time.

Dan Sutcliffe  
Grand Trustee

