

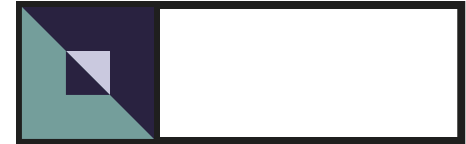
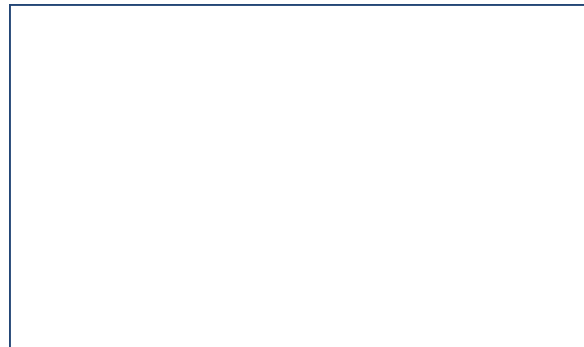
## Program of the Month

Throughout this Masonic year your Lodge will receive a **Program of the Month**. This Program is created for you to utilize in your Lodge.

If your lodge already has a program similar to the program that is contained in this brochure, by all means continue your efforts. If however, you are not conducting this type of program please utilize this procedure.

These programs are created to help your lodge retain your members and it is specifically tied to our Renewal Effort.

Be sure to let us know how this program is working in your Lodge.



## “Honor our Veterans Program”



## Honor our Veterans Program



**Lets say Thank You to those who have served!**

Far too often we fail to adequately say, "Thank You" to a group of men and women whose sacrifice is too easily taken for granted. In the prime of their lives, when their thoughts turned naturally to those things they wanted to do in the future, they were called to our Nation's service. Whether it was in the

Army, Air Force, Navy or Marines these men and women stepped forward and stood the watch so that those of us at home slept safely and peacefully in our beds. It is perhaps because of the enormity of their sacrifice, their willingness to stand for something greater than themselves that we feel so incapable of properly saying how deeply their sacrifice has touched us. But that is exactly what we need to do. Say to them, Thank You. Thank You for your willingness to do what so many cannot, your willingness to forgo comfort, safety, family and home. Thank You for your love of our Nation, your love of the ideals of liberty and freedom, and your willingness to give freedom and liberty to those – yet unborn.

Yes, Thank You is a fairly insignificant thing to say to these great men and women, but it is the very least that we can do. This program is dedicated to every member of our Armed Forces, Thank you and God Bless You.

### How does it work?

Very simply. Identify those men in your lodge that have at any time served in the Nation's defense. Call them and tell them that you are planning a special night just for them.

If needed, pick them up and bring them to lodge. See the "Bring A Brother to Lodge" program that was sent earlier this year for ideas on ways to accomplish that.

Have a special supper for them. Maybe grill some steaks or have everyone bring a special dish that they enjoy preparing. Be sure and involve the membership of your lodge and let those that are willing to take an active part in the program do so.

Young peoples' choirs from a local church or elementary school are usually delighted to come to your lodge and sing some special selections appropriate to the event. Everyone wants to express their gratitude to those that have served in the armed forces but very seldom have the opportunity. Notify the Mayor's office or your senator or representative's office and ask if they could send a speaker to an evening of thanksgiving for those that have served our Nation. I guarantee that they will jump at the opportunity to speak to your group.

### Should we involve any others?

The idea of saying Thank You is very simple and yet very powerful. To involve others in your community is a



**Thank you for your Honor, Courage and Commitment to our Nation and its people**

wonderful way for your lodge to become involved in the greater world. Go to your local American Legion or Veterans of Foreign War Post and invite them to your Thank You celebration. Receive them with honor and dignity. Seat them in a place of honor inside of your Lodge, Most of the attendees have never seen the


inside of a Masonic Lodge. What a great way to say Thanks and at the same time to increase the awareness of your fraternity to a group of men that are so important to our country.

Most importantly, use your own ideas to create your program. You don't need anything flowery or expensive. You don't need any speakers other than those from your own lodge, you do not need to buy any props, or decorations if you don't want to. What you do need to do, what we all need to do, is to simply say Thank You.

So, identify those that are veterans, bring them to lodge, and tell them Thank You. Go to your area Veterans Hospital and say Thank You to those men and women in residence there and let them know they are not forgotten. They will never be forgotten.

Some beautiful veterans thank you cards are available at [www.patriotgreetings.com](http://www.patriotgreetings.com)

Elaborate or simple, we, as a fraternity and you as the leader of your lodge, need to take this opportunity to say how deeply we appreciate the sacrifice our veterans have been willing to make for our country. Do not miss this opportunity to make a difference in these peoples lives.



**If you need assistance with this program  
Please contact:  
Robert Conley  
Grand Lodge of Michigan  
800-632-8764 x 112**