

**Biographical Sketch of Edgar Albert Guest**  
(May be used by Lodge at Edgar Guest Award Dinner)

Edgar Albert Guest was born in Birmingham, England on August 20, 1881 and he died in Detroit, Michigan, on August 5, 1959. He was the exemplification of Friendship, and thousands of people across our Nation who never had the privilege of seeing his cheery smile and the warmth of his handclasp were his friends.

Edgar Guest was a poet laureate and his philosophy of life was spread into hundreds of thousands of homes where his daily verses were an inspiration for better living. He leaves with us his message in his first book "Home Rhymes" and in those books, which followed during fifty years of writing, including "Just Glad Tidings" written in 1911 and "A Heap of Living" written in 1916.

His greatest civic achievement was through the "Boys' Clubs", one of which in Detroit bears his name.

He was first, last and always a newspaperman and newspaper shoptalk was his favorite talk. He was also a gifted public speaker and for over thirty years he kept annual speaking dates with churches and other organizations that he loved to visit.

His first religious affiliation was with the "Swedenborgians" and he ultimately became an Episcopalian. Quoting from The Detroit Free Press, the newspaper he served for sixty years, "Fundamentally spiritual and broad of mind, however, Eddie Guest found all faiths and most churchmen good"

Radio, television and even Hollywood claimed him for a while, but the Detroit area was his first and last beloved habitat. Honors of every sort were showered upon him, for here was a man who understood that, "By friendship you mean the greatest love, the greatest usefulness, the most open communication, the noblest suffering, and the greatest union of minds of which brave men and women are capable."

Our distinguished Brother was a member of Ashlar Lodge No. 91, Free and Accepted Masons, located in Detroit and he also belonged to several other appendant Masonic organizations. His concept of Freemasonry, which appeared in an article in 1947, has been widely quoted. Following is an excerpt from that article: "I take great pride in my Masonry. I was received into the Craft almost a quarter of a century ago and am sure today I have not exhausted even the smallest veins of its rightly laden ore. It is a source of help and comfort and pleasure I can absolutely rely upon. When I have wearied of other labors, I can turn confidently to my Lodge and find companionship and courage. There is something indefinable in Masonry I can find nowhere else in the world. Familiar as I am with the Masonic ritual, it continues ever fresh and ever new. Always it seems to me, as I hear it again repeated, I catch a new thought or a new grip on the eternal truths of life. Masonry has greatly enriched my life. It has given me friendships that I cherish dearly. It has, I think, whispered subconsciously to me in silent hours, words of caution and encouragement. I like going back to my Lodge. I have found it refreshing and good to step aside out of the path of my busy life and sit again with the Masons who have carried on in my absence. To this experience I come gladly and joyfully, as a boy returns again to his old home which he left to seek his fortune. Still some of the Brothers await to welcome me. Grown a little older I find them, but still strong and eager for the duties of a Mason. With them, I can be what I long so often to be - just one of the Craft. Their aprons and mine are made of the same cloth, their dreams and mine are similar, their pulses beat to the same inspiration and we are all at peace."

Because of Brother Guest's devotion to the Craft, community and humanity in general, the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Michigan established the Edgar A. Guest Award. It is for Lodges to present to non-Masons within the community who have demonstrated distinguished service to the community and their fellowman.

Inscribed on the award Certificate is a poem written by Brother Guest:

(Read the poem from the front of the award Certificate.)