Voevodsky showed that there is a motivic spectrum representing algebraic $K$-theory. An equivalent spectrum that is also a symmetric ring spectrum is constructed using Gillet-Grayson $K$-theory. A coherence problem occurs when one verifies the symmetry. It is solved by introducing the concept of standard vector bundles, which is a category of vector bundles with strictly associative tensor product that is also strictly commutative with line bundles. (Received September 22, 2009)