



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF ESSEX

Provincial Office
2 Station Court
Stations Approach
Wickford
Essex, SS11 7AT
☎: 01268 571610
✉: paul.reeves@EssexPGL.org.uk

VW.Bro Paul G. Reeves
Deputy Provincial Grand Master

14th July 2020

Brethren

It is with much regret that I write to inform you that our ProvGM, RW.Bro Rodney Lister Bass, *OBE*, passed to the Grand Lodge Above earlier this morning.

In April 2019 he was diagnosed with lung cancer and for the past fifteen months had been undergoing radiotherapy and chemotherapy. He was very proud to be our 19th Provincial Grand Master took his responsibilities very seriously. He very much regretted the few occasions when his treatments prevented him from attending a scheduled meeting.

His tumour had been receding but last week a PET Scan revealed the cancer had spread to his liver, kidneys and elsewhere in his body and he had finally lost his battle and was given only a matter of weeks to live. He returned home yesterday and passed away during the night. It was too soon but at least he was spared the final stages of an awful disease.

He was a great man and the messages, letters and cards received at his home and at the Provincial Office attest to the fact he was much loved by the brethren and will be sadly missed by us all. Essex Freemasonry will be the poorer for his death.

Government regulations dictate that there will be a small family-only funeral in the next couple of weeks but a Memorial Service will hopefully be possible later in the autumn. His wife, Margaret, and his brother, W.Bro Henry Bass, have asked that no calls are made to the house and no flowers are sent now or to the funeral. Instead donations in his name would be appreciated to Cancer Research UK (quoting the family's unique reference number 644216744).

Until his successor is selected and appointed I will fulfil the role of 'Deputy Provincial Grand Master In Charge' and Excellent Companion Nick Franklin will be the 'Deputy Grand Superintendent In Charge' of the Holy Royal Arch.

In consequence of his death it is ordered that Masonic Mourning shall consist of the printing of an 'In Memoriam' notice on the first summons issued for a meeting of each Lodge and Chapter under the Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter of Essex following the date of this letter; and that the members of each Lodge/Chapter shall stand in memory of RW.Bro/E.Comp. Rodney Lister Bass, *OBE* at its next meeting immediately after the Lodge/Chapter has been opened and before any business is transacted (except for the reading of any dispensation required to regularise the holding of the meeting).

Fraternal regards

Paul Reeves
Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge