



A heartfelt tribute to The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Ex Comp Anthony Paul Leeson

15 January 1948–22 December 2021

By Ex Comp David Zavad

I have been blessed in my life to know many wonderful people, some more than others; Tony Leeson was definitely one of the most wonderful!

I met Tony just after I joined Masonry some 35 years ago (I was about 20 at the time!) and soon he became one of my main mentors in Freemasonry and over the years, a close friend and confidante, a role he also extended to Paddy Roberts. As a mentor, he had the ability of taking the reins of my life - which I have always lived at breakneck speed, and with a gentle pull to the right, or left, could correct the path I should take. And he always knew how to pull on the reins to stop me doing obviously wrong things. Well, obvious to him!

Now that he is gone, that role is going to be undertaken by a group of trusted friends, especially Karl Michel, Frans Roodt, Tony Strong and Paddy Roberts.

Tony was a freemason in every sense of the word: gentle, kind, considerate, but most of all, extremely knowledgeable! He was the learned Mason I have ever known. Or ever will know. He had extremely strong views about every subject and we would sit for hours on his veranda and in his lounge discussing the world's and Freemasonry's problems; put

them all to right and be amazed later that the world and Freemasonry had not changed much!

Tony was a historian, a prolific writer of Masonic research papers, secretary to almost every Lodge, Chapter and some Districts that he was a member of. He single-handedly kept our Masonic Research Lodge afloat for many years. It's existence today is down to his dedication and passion for Masonic knowledge.

Karl Michel and I have undertaken to assemble all his papers, books, research documents and minutes, put them into order and catalogue them for future use by all Masons, something he would be proud of, and a fitting legacy to him.

But, Tony was no angel; he was a hoarder of note: where every surface in his lounge, dining room and office were covered in papers, books and, of course, ash trays! The good Lord has a way of balancing each of our characteristics. With Tony, he gave him an extra large pair of heels for each foot for when he dug those heels in, teams of wild horses would not move him. To say he was stubborn was an understatement!

He was passionate about his family; Lynn, to whom he was married for over 40 years; Paula, Megan and his son, Jason, his three angel-like children, and their extended

families.

But his family had an extra component: Freemasonry. Tony has been a Mason for 47 years, initially joining Stamford Hill Lodge and then progressing to so many other Orders within our Fraternity. He was the Secretary in most of these Lodges and Chapters and he rose to the highest ranks in every one of them, being the Head of the Royal Arch Degree in KwaZulu-Natal for the last 6 ½ years; Deputy District Grand Master of the Craft Degree and a Grand Officer (this being the highest international award given to a Mason who excelled in that Degree). He held that rank in every Order he was a member of. A truly remarkable man and Freemason!

Yet, he always remained humble, but with a sharp eye on our Constitutional matters, the Masonic rituals and, especially, the production of the various Lodge and Chapter agendas.

There is no doubt that Tony will be missed by everyone who knew him; and equally, I have no doubt, he will never be forgotten.

Rest in peace, Anthony Paul Lesson, for you truly deserve the comfort of living in the Almighty's Mansion, free of pain and suffering!

Guidelines (Board of General Purposes)

THE CONDUCT OF MASONIC BUSINESS WHEN NO MASONS ARE PRESENT.

1. Non-masons may not be present at the opening or closing of a Lodge or at any time a Lodge is open.
2. The ceremonies of Initiation, Passing, Raising and Installation can only take place validly in an open Lodge. The same validity extends to individual elements of the ceremony such as the Charge after Initiation including Masonic Lectures associated with the ceremonies.
3. No Masonic sign or secret may be shown or imparted outside of a regular Lodge. Other brief portions of Masonic text may be employed when illustrating Masonic ideals to a non-Masonic audience, but elements of the ceremonies should not be recited at length.
4. The administrative business of the Lodge can only be conducted in open Lodge.
5. There is, however, no compelling need to adopt a mysterious or secretive attitude towards other Masonic activities, such as the laying of a foundation stone, which takes place without a Lodge being open or after a Lodge has been called off or closed. The distinction here being that the event is ceremonial rather than ritual.
6. Before the planning of any public event the District Grand Lodge must be consulted.
7. Rule 178 prohibits the wearing of regalia when persons other than Masons are present unless a Dispensation has previously been given. It is highly likely that such permission will be granted for the purpose of open days, church services and other appropriate events. Dispensation from the District Grand Lodge must be sought in accordance with the Rule. This includes "ladies and gentlemen to Dine" if regalia is to be worn during a visit to a Lodge Room.
8. It is perfectly in order for non-masons, which includes ladies, to be invited to Masonic after proceedings. An abridged Masonic Toast List must be employed with no reference to Masonic Ritual, including Masonic fire. The abridged Toast List should undoubtedly include Our Country, The Grand Master and the Worshipful Master. Instead of a Toast to the Guests, when a reply might be difficult or embarrassing for a non-mason, it is suggested that the Worshipful Master takes wine with the guests. On such occasions care should be taken not to embarrass the non-mason who is un-

customed to Masonic practices. There is a problem within the Fraternity in this regard for there are small Lodges that remain open or "called off" at the Festive Board and are closed at the end of the proceedings. The District/ Provincial Grand Lodge must be consulted, particularly if non-masons are invited to be present.

The History or Tradition behind the Masonic Fire is the twenty one gun salute and such tradition should be practiced in a military Lodge. Those Lodges adopting Masonic Fire Masonic etiquette must be maintained, therefore, following the movements the Brethren consume the contents of the small glass and bang the glass on the table with wine splashing about. What impression does this portray to a non-mason or lady's if permitted to be present. Dignity must prevail at all times even when non-masons are not present.

9. When a ballot for a prospective candidate is conducted the latter must not be invited to the festive board. Should the ballot prove cloudy someone has to explain the situation to the prospective candidate. Embarrassing situation.

CHARITY

Over the recent month the Covid-19 Pandemic has played a major part in our lives but above all the difficulties Charity has been in the fore ground. Take this opportunity to extend the Districts congratulations to all those Brethren, non-masons with wives and partners who devoted their time to relieve the oppressed irrespective how big or small. Well done. A noticeable feature was that Umhlanga Round Table asked for Freemasons to assist in providing a substantial meal, including entertainment, to the destitute residence of Elders Voice. Thank those Brethren who gave of the family time for this worthy cause, which has culminated in an annual event. Foundation for development and Freemasonry in the community.

The show stopper was the District Grand Lodge Annual Golf day which proved to be a success with Cerebral Palsy receiving R40,000, Kerr House for abused women and children R50,000 and R25,000 to the District Charity Fund. Congratulations to Worshipful Brother I. A. Pace and his assistance/sponsors for a charity drive well organized and executed. Long may it be continue.

FINANCE

Brethren, this is the future direction and a motivating factor by the United

Grand Lodge of England. They have launched its first annual report in its 300 years of history making another major step forward in its commitment to modernisation, transparency and normalization. They want to tell the public who we are and what we do. This year 42 million pounds has been raised for charity. We should all be enormously proud to be a Freemasons and to serve a worldwide organization plus motivated and dedicated Brethren at Great Queen Street with such a story.

DEGREE CEREMONIES

Masters and Secretaries have received via the District Grand Lodge the guidelines, not a directive, from the United Grand Lodge of England appertaining to the First and Second Degree Workings. The UGLE has delegated the responsibility to the District Grand Master to formulate guidelines for the Third Degree Ceremony and Installations. To implement this procedure have nominated Worshipful Brothers D. Robertson, T. Caloba and D. Zavad to compile a combined document for submission for approval followed by demonstration workings and discussion. Final documents will be sent to Lodge Master and Secretary for implementation.

Brethren, from statistical information as to Candidates awaiting admission, Fellow Craft and Master Mason Degree Ceremonies by Lodge it is clearly evident that a Dispensation will not be issued for an emergency meeting.

Communication is a vital ingredient of any efficient management system. Systems will be introduced whereby the Deputy and the Assistant District Grand Masters will have more responsibility thereby becoming familiar with the functioning of the District Grand Lodge. Have nominated Worshipful Brother R. F. Moxham to form a tabulation of all Installation Meetings whereby Chain Offices and/or Wardens will represent at the Sister Constitution Installation Meetings.

GENERAL

Brethren, I take this opportunity to thank the Provincial Grand Master of the Irish Constitution, Right Worshipful Brother D. Patton for allow the English Constitution to convene the Annual Communication.

The prosperity of your District and your Lodge depends as much on your support, assistance and obedience as on the assiduity, fidelity and wisdom of the District Chain Officers and the Master of the Lodge.

Royal Arch Freemasonry: The Road Ahead

Ex Comp (Dr) Frans Roodt

District Deputy Grand Superintendent

District Grand Chapter of Natal of Royal Arch Freemasonry of England

Royal Arch Freemasonry of England is an appendant order to Craft Freemasonry and is also administrated from UGLE head office at Great Queen Street in London. It is the only appendant order actively encouraged by UGLE amongst their Craft members.

Royal Arch Companions meet in Chapters which is required to be sponsored by a Craft Lodge and bears the same number and usually the same name as the Craft Lodge.

The Royal Arch represents the period of return from Babylonian captivity and rediscovering of the Temple of Solomon and other important discoveries relating to the Third Degree in Craft Masonry.

Royal Arch Freemasonry forms part of the York Rite branch of Freemasonry and is a

prerequisite to some further degrees on the York Rite branch, like Order of the Red Cross of Constantine, the Order of Royal and Select Masters and also the Order of Knights Templar and Knights of Malta. We currently have 11 active Royal Arch Chapters in the District Grand Chapter of Natal and the Committee of General Purposes has devised a plan to visit all Craft Lodges in the District of Natal English Constitution to promote Royal Arch Freemasonry. Freemasonry in general suffered during the pandemic and it is only due to our ever increasing social media skills that we kept the spirit of Freemasonry alive. The time has arrived for us to start our physical meetings again to exalt new candidates and Install new Principals in the Chapters. We plan to in-

crease the footprint of the Royal Arch in Natal to a target of 60 percent of the Craft members. Chapters traditionally meet every second month and the costs involved is much less than the Craft due to our combined administration.

Royal Arch Freemasonry is the next step on your masonic journey and also the gateway to some other Orders in the York Rite and every Master Mason should endeavour to unlock the further mysteries of the Temple of Solomon.

Any Brother interested in joining or returning to Royal Arch Freemasonry should ask any member in his Lodge who is a Royal Arch Mason or contact myself, Ex Comp David Zavad or Ex Comp Patrick Macquet for further information.



The entire District of KwaZulu-Natal was reeled in shock on the morning of 18 February 2022 with the news that WBro Justin Thiel was called to Higher Service.

WBro Thiel was the District Grand Treasurer of the DGL of KZN for many years, as well as the Treasurer of Umkomaas Lodge 2990, Alexandra County Royal Arch Chapter 3751, Park Rynie Rose Croix Chapter 5020 and the Lewis Mark Master Masons Lodge 1223.

Rest in Peace, WBro Thiel.



Masonic Services ... At your Service

The background to the forming of this separate charity committee not reporting to any specific district, was established by the Irish, English and Scottish Freemasons. The aim was to raise money for Christmas hampers for elderly TAFTA residents. Being an inter constitutional charity effort these were packed and delivered by all the Constitutions Brethren.

The first 250 parcels we boxed and hand wrapped in Christmas paper to be delivered to needy pensioners around the 16th December public holiday

Driven by the Late Doug Kirton this project grew to supply over 1000 hampers in 2017

The Chairman position rotated between the 4 Constitutions every year to remain impartial and separate from any one Constitution.'

This "project" was great for promoting a sense of Charity and actually meeting the Brethren from all the constitutions, who all enthusiastically assisted and ended with a social braai at NMR.

In those days Masonry was perceived as a charitable organisation similar to Lions or Rotary. A lot of older Masons joined with the idea of 'wanting to give something back'. The NE Corner ritual working comes to mind. Unfortunately those heady days seem to be long gone

With the Scottish choosing not to donate funds to the hamper project and concentrate on their own charity projects, along with declining donations from the other Constitutions, a decision was made in 2018 to cease the TAFA based project (which took 886 hampers the year before). due to lack of finances.

Owing to financial necessity a decision was taken by the committee, to replace the annual effort with a monthly supply hamper of fresh fruit and veg/meat hampers to needy elderly and brethren in the district instead. This cost, the same as previous buckets are gratefully received as a vital supplement to the elderly's monthly groceries.

The criteria for assistance are and has always been that a pensioner on SASA pension with little other income is eligible, they do not have to be Freemason's or family thereof.

To fundraise we established a charity shop in 2019 this was made possible by the generous donation of a complete household of furniture donated buy Worshipful Bro John Marchant who has emigrated to the U.K. Between Worshipful Bro Ian Pace and my family, we

including the use of our food trailer when government regulations allow it. With the Comrade Marathon being cancelled this fundraiser has not been possible.

Should any lodge brother or company wish to contribute to our charity we do have our own bank account and have obtained a PBO number

Any brother wanting to join or has someone they know that needs assistance please contact a member of our committee.

In closing, we also sponsor a Christmas lunch on Christmas day, held at Stella Park Bowling Club for pensioners in the area, all pensioners meeting our criteria can be included by contacting our secretary,

Fraternal regards,
Masonic Services Committee



packed and transported all the items to a Charity shop Masonic Services started in Botha's Hill called the MASONS ALMS.

The shop saw a substantial profit from the initial goods donated, and brethren did support the shop with more donations. With the COVID-19 pandemic we were obliged to pay rent for 2 months with no trade, this forced our committee to decide to close the shop in June 2020.

Our current committee is working on various fundraising efforts,





The Masonic Charity Golf Day

Friday 08 April 2022

Join us for a day on the Golf Course
to help raise funds for :

Kerr House for abused women

Kerr
HOUSE

R550 per player
Snacks at prizegiving
Tee / Green sponsorships
Lots of prizes

Call Ian Pace at 083 676 0920 for further detail

It is that time again: our Annual District Charity Golf Day!

This year the beneficiary charity is Kerr House which is a safe house for girls and women who have suffered physical and emotional abuse.

The abuse of girls and women should be an abhorrence in the mind and heart of every man who would consider himself respectable in life and call himself Mason. It needs to be stamped out wherever it is found. Father Dane Elsworth, our good friend from St. Cyprian's church, does an awesome job for this worthy cause with precious little funding and we have no difficulty at all in lending our support.

We are in need of prizes (preferably in two's) and any help will be greatly appreciated, regardless of value. Household goods such as kettles, toasters, irons, Ferrari's etc are always very welcome. This is an opportunity for Masons to stand up and be counted. The target is to give Kerr House R100 000 and we will not fail in our endeavours.

Please call W Bro Ian Pace at 031 566 6488 or 083 676 0920 to offer any help you can.

