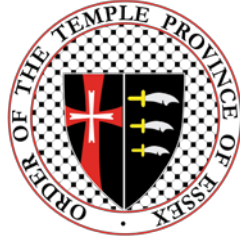


**THE UNITED RELIGIOUS, MILITARY AND MASONIC ORDERS OF THE TEMPLE
AND OF ST. JOHN OF JERUSALEM, PALESTINE, RHODES AND MALTA
OF ENGLAND AND WALES AND ITS PROVINCES OVERSEAS**

PROVINCE OF ESSEX

Provincial Prior

A. J. (John) Helliard



Brother Knights of Essex

21st July 2020

The recent announcement of the sudden death of R.W.Bro./E.Comp. Rodney Lister Bass, O.B.E., the Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent of Essex, in the early hours of Tuesday the 14th July 2020 was a sudden, yet powerful reminder that focused the thoughts of those of us who knew him on the fragility of this our mortal existence.

Just four weeks ago we had viewed the video of his interview with W.Bro. Colin Felton, on a glorious June day, in the wonderful surroundings of his beautiful garden. In a very upbeat mood R.W.Bro. Rodney gave a stirring and forceful analysis of how he saw the future of Freemasonry in the then current "lockdown", as well as his own situation. What a fantastic and brave face he displayed on that occasion in the circumstances.

On behalf of you all, as your Provincial Prior, I sent condolences to his wife Margaret, his brother W.Bro. Henry Bass and the other members of his family.

In his five years in office as our PGM Bro. Rodney showed by his own personal involvement and actions to be a great supporter of all the "Other Degrees" in Essex Freemasonry, in many of which he was an enthusiastic member. His belief in what he called "The Family of Essex Freemasonry" was proved time and again by his attendance, whenever possible, at meetings of all the "Progressive Degrees". His duties in the Craft and the Royal Arch required a great deal of his time and energy but he still managed to fit into that busy schedule, the opportunity and time to attend as a member of every other Order he had joined throughout a distinguished career.

E.Kt. Rodney Bass had been Installed as a knight in St. Osyth Preceptory, No. 496 in October 1993 and progressed thru the offices to be installed as it's Eminent Preceptor in April 2000. For many years he was the Chaplain and achieved Provincial rank in Essex as Chamberlain in 2002, received promotion to the past rank of 1st Herald in 2005 and then was made 1st Constable (active) in 2010. In 2012 he received the

Great Priory rank of Past Great Aide-de-Camp and five years later was promoted to the active rank of Great Standard Bearer (B). During his eventful career Rodney Bass also was a member of the KT in London and was a member of their Provincial Bodyguard, eventually becoming it's Deputy Commander, as well as being the Provincial Almoner for a time and then Past Prov. Registrar.

I personally will think of him as a man and a Freemason who I was privileged, honoured and delighted to know and was able to call a friend who I greatly admired. He was in my opinion a truly great Freemason who will be missed by all who knew him and his legacy to Essex Freemasonry in particular will live on in a celebration of his achievements as well as to his memory.

John Helliard,

Provincial Prior of Essex.