



Mark Masons' Hall
86 St James's Street, London, SW1A 1PL

22 January 2026

**To: Provincial and District Grand Masters
The Mark General Board and Management Board of Mark Masons' Hall
Provincial and District Grand Secretaries
Secretaries of Unattached Lodges**

For onward circulation to all Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges

Dear Sir and Brother

It is with much sadness that I have to inform you that our well-beloved and highly respected Pro Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother John Herbert Prizeman, passed to his rest this morning at the age of 79.

M.W.Bro. John was a distinguished Freemason, holding high office in the Craft and Holy Royal Arch, as well as all of the Orders administered from Mark Masons' Hall, and many of the other mainstream Companion Orders of Freemasonry.

He was Advanced into Chandler's Ford Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 1258 in January 1986 and held a total of eight Grand Ranks within the Mark. Most notably Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight 2007-2016; President of the Mark Benevolent Fund 2014-2015; Pro Grand Master since 2022 (having previously held the Offices of Assistant and Deputy Grand Master); and had been a member of the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council since 2016.

John had an infectious and unbounded enthusiasm for Mark Masonry and spread the 'Magic of the Mark' and its associated messages wherever he went and whenever he had the opportunity. Not least when he addressed a packed Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall at the Quarterly Communication of UGLE in March 2024, the first Mark Pro Grand Master ever to do so. And he left the dais to a well-deserved and lengthy standing ovation.

As such a genuine and approachable gentleman and Brother there will be many hundreds, if not thousands, of us who will have fond recollections of time spent in John's presence. While memory lasts, friends will find eternal company.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to John's wife Kay and their family. We request that no contact be made with the family at the present time. Funeral details will be circulated in due course.

Yours sincerely and fraternally.

D.M. Heath 

R.W.Bro. Daniel M Heath, P.G.J.W.
Grand Secretary

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IMPORTANT NOTE: in consequence of M.W.Bro. John's passing, all Lodges are required to issue the summons for their next regular meeting with a black border while Brethren are requested to wear a plain black tie in preference to the Provincial tie or Grand Lodge tie. An 'In Memoriam' item should appear on the agenda immediately after the Lodge has opened.

Lodges of which M.W.Bro. John was a Member or Honorary Member should enter a period of mourning for three months. The summons for each such Lodge meeting within this period being issued with a black border and the dress code, detailed above, observed.

Until such time as a new Pro Grand Master has been appointed and invested, the toast to the Pro Grand Master shall be omitted from toast lists, with the toast now reading:

Right Worshipful Brother Professor Denovan Keith Wilson
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Right Worshipful Brother Peter David Williams
ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER

and the rest of the Grand Officers, present and past

These same marks of respect should be followed in meetings of Royal Ark Mariner Lodges.