

Rt. W. BRO. Michael Henry Roalfe

Rt. W. Bro. Michael Henry Roalfe passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 21st August 2023, aged 88. He was born in Norfolk and educated at Kings Lynn Grammar School, Michael moved to Leicester in 1958 to join a Quantity Surveying practice, he was also a Justice of the Peace.

Rt W Bro Michael was appointed as Provincial Grand Master 1st August 2002 and stepped down on 8th Jan 2010, having previously served the Province as Director Ceremonies, Assistant & Deputy Provincial Grand Masters.

He was Initiated in the Lodge of Friendship No: 7168 on 1st December 1964 and was Installed as WM on 3rd October 1979, he joined the Leicestershire & Rutland Lodge of Installed Master's on 12th April and became WM on 3rd October 1999. Rt W Bro Michael joined the Reynard Lodge No 9285 on 26th April 2004 and the Royal Sussex Lodge 28th February 2017 he became its WM on 26th February 2019

In addition, he was a member of a considerable number of other side degrees in the Province, holding high national rank in many of them.

Michael and his first Wife June who pre-deceased him, had three children, Nick, Mark & Rebecca Michael later married Vera.

In his professional life Michael was then senior partner of the local quantity surveying practice of Robert G Mason and Partners practice, he retired in 1995.

In the 1992/93 Year Book there was a photograph of him and the accompanying notes commented on his already Illustrious Masonic career.

Following the resignation in July 2002 of Rt W. Bro. Derek Buswell as Provincial Grand Master, Michael was appointed to succeed him as PGM. He was Installed at an especial Communication of Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland held at Freemasons Hall, Leicester, on 10th October 2002, many Brethren of the Province were present and the Brethren dined together in celebration.

A number of new initiatives were introduced early in Mike Roalfe's time as PGM, as well as launching the appeal for the 2012 festival for the RMBI there was the introduction of new Training Mornings beginning with "Towards the Chair" for Master Elects and Wardens and the establishment of presenting 50 years of service certificates to duly qualified Brethren.

As Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Roalfe consecrated The Showman's Lodge No: 9826.

In 2014 he was presented with a 50 year certificate of service in Freemasonry, when it was noted that apart from those lodges and many side degrees of which he was a subscribing member, there were 10 of which he was an Honorary Member.

R. W. Bro. Michael Henry Roalfe served our Province for 59 years, truly laying up a Crown of Joy and Rejoicing which will long continue now time with him is no more. Truly, he has lived respected and died regretted.

Peter C Kinder
August 2023