

RESOLUTION

ILLUSTRIOUS THOMAS LANCELOT REESE, II, 33°

Born: September 19, 1933 – Milledgeville, Georgia

Died: May 27, 2020 -- Milledgeville, Georgia

PASSED TO THE GREAT BEYOND IN HIS EIGHTY SIXTH YEAR

WHEREAS, The Officers and Members in the Valley of Middle Georgia, Orient of Georgia, Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry, desire to record their deepest sorrow at the death of their Masonic Brother,

ILLUSTRIOUS THOMAS LANCELOT REESE, II, 33°

who, since June 19, 1976, has served the Scottish Rite, Valley of Middle Georgia in several capacities. Brother Tom in his years contributed greatly to mankind and our country. His zest for life, his accomplishments individually will not soon be forgotten and we are much better for his life here on earth. He was a kind, generous and compassionate Christian friend to many who traveled many miles with him to some remote place to confer degrees or offer assistance.

Brother Tom was educated in the public schools of Hancock County, Georgia and graduated from the University of Georgia School of Pharmacy in 1956 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Pharmacy. He served from 1959 to 1962 in the United States Army Medical Service Corps, rising to the rank of First Lieutenant. After his discharge in 1962, he was employed in pharmacy, and in 1968, he began a long career with Central State Hospital in Milledgeville, retiring after 30 years as the Clinical Pharmacy Supervisor and Coordinator of the Developmental Disabilities Division Pharmacy. He was a member of several professional organizations, and also served as President of the Milledgeville Rotary Club.

Brother Reese was initiated in Macon Lodge #5 on March 2, 1964, passed to the Degree of Fellowcraft on March 16, 1964, and raised as a Master Mason on April 6, 1964. He demitted to Benevolent Lodge #3 in Milledgeville, Georgia on March 2, 1976, serving as Worshipful Master in 1982. He served as a District Deputy to the Grand Master for the Tenth Masonic District for seven years and as Worshipful Master of the Tenth District Masonic Convention in 1990. In 1986, he was awarded the Grand Lodge Distinguished Service Award. He served as Master of Georgia Lodge of Research in Atlanta in 1994.

He was appointed in 1994 as Third Grand Steward of the Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Georgia by Clyde E. Griffin and he served with distinction as Most Worshipful Grand Master of Masons in Georgia in 2000. While serving as Grand Master, he served as the Host of the Conferences of Grand Masters and Grand Secretaries of North America held in Savannah, Georgia in 2000. He was very active in Grand Lodge serving on several Committees until unable to serve.

Brother Tom was also a longtime member of Clarence H. Cohen Daylight Lodge #749 in Martinez, Georgia having affiliated with them as a dual and charter member on September 7, 1995.

He joined Constantine Chapter #4, RAM in Macon, Georgia on May 10, 1965, Washington Council #6, in Macon, RSM, on May 20, 1965 and St. Omer Commandery #2, KT, in Macon, on June 3, 1965. He demitted from these bodies in April, 1976 and affiliated with Temple Chapter #6, RAM, Georgia Council #4, and Plantagenet Commandery #12, all in Milledgeville, Georgia, He was a past presiding officer of all these bodies and was invited to membership in Georgia Priory #39, Knights of the York Cross of Honour on June 11, 1983. He was very active in the York Rite bodies and was elected to the Grand Chapter line, serving until 1987 when he resigned while serving as Grand King of the Grand Chapter because of family and personal health reasons.

Brother Tom was invited to become a member of many of the Appendant-Honorary Bodies in Georgia and served in a position of leadership in many of them.

He became a member of the Scottish Rite of Freemasonry on June 19, 1976. He was invested with the Rank and Decoration of Knight Commander of the Court of Honour on October 19, 1981, and was Coroneted an Inspector General Honorary, 33° on December 2, 1989. He was very active in the Scottish Rite, doing ritualistic work and serving as the Personal Representative of the Sovereign Grand Inspector General, in the Valley of Macon for several years. He also did the Lieutenant Grand Commander part in the Georgia Thirty Third Degree team, for several years. Unfortunately, in later years, he was unable to attend in Macon and more so when the Valley moved to Warner Robins, and many of the current Valley members did not know him and his contributions to the Valley.

Brother Tom was a longtime Methodist and member of First United Methodist Church in Milledgeville where he served some years as Chairman of the Administrative Board and Sunday School teacher.

Brother Reese's wife Jimmie, died on November 9, 2014 after a long illness, they having been married fifty years. He is survived by two step grandsons.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the officers and members of the Scottish Rite, Valley of Middle Georgia, hereby give formal expression of its grievous loss in the death of Thomas Lancelot Reese, II, and does hereby note in its records the passing from this life of a man who was esteemed by his associates, loved by his friends and respected by all.

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, That a copy of this Resolution be made a part of the permanent records of this Valley and posted as appropriate, as a humble expression of the Scottish Rite's heartfelt sympathy.

Joe E. Turner, 33° Orient of Georgia Historian