

Worshipful Master and Brethren,

It is with much sadness, that I stand here today having to give this Eulogy for Worshipful Brother. RICHARD EDWARD MOLE, MVO, who has - as you have already heard - passed to the Grand Lodge above on SATURDAY, 25th NOVEMBER.

Richard was born on the 6th October 1946, and was educated at Shaldon Primary School and privately at Ashburton College, Newton Abbot.

On leaving school he worked for the family building firm in Shaldon whilst continuing his education at Torquay Technical College.

It was through the college that he obtained a position as a Superintendent of Building Works, working for the Department of the Environment in London.

This led to the position of Maintenance Manager working for the Royal Household - a position which necessitated living in Kensington Palace.

In the New Year's honours list for 1995, Richard was appointed a Member of the Royal Victorian Order - a personal honour awarded by the Queen.

At this time, he was the Property Manager for St James's and Kensington Palaces, Clarence House and Marlborough House. He later became the Property Manager for Windsor Castle.

He was appointed a Sergeant at Arms and was part of The Sovereign's Procession at the State Opening of Parliament.

He retired from the Royal Household in October 2006, and returned to Devon living first in Teignmouth, and then latterly in Shaldon.

Whilst living in London, Richard married Lorna and they have three children: Joanna, Victoria and Edward, and seven grandchildren.

Richard was a man who loved sport. He played rugby for Teignmouth and regularly represented the club at a high level.

In London, he became involved with Richmond Rugby Club, and his son Edward played for their junior side.

On his return to the area, he played bowls for Shaldon Bowling Club and was a member of Teignmouth Golf Club;

He played a very active part in the Royal British Legion holding the position of Chairman and Poppy Organiser for the Shaldon Branch; he was a great supporter of Shaldon Regatta, which he and his family regularly attended.

As for his Masonic life, Richard was initiated into a lodge in London - The Richmond Hill Lodge No. 6698 - and reached the office of Junior Warden.

He became a Joining Member of Benevolent Lodge in 2008, and was installed as Worshipful Master in 2013. And I was initiated by him that year.

His father Frederick William Wallace Mole, was also a member of this lodge and was Worshipful Master in 1953.

Brethren, this is a very brief history of a fine man who will be missed by all those who had the privilege and pleasure of knowing him.

He was as honest as the day is long; someone you could count on; someone you could trust; and someone who was a true friend.

Brethren, Worshipful Brother Richard's funeral will be held on FRIDAY, 15th DECEMBER, at St. Peter's Church in Shaldon, at 11 a.m.

I now call upon the Chaplain to read the Tribute to Departed Merit.