

Knight Companion Robert S. Finley, KGC

February 23, 1936 – January 12, 2019

Memorial

Most Illustrious Past Grand Sovereign, Knight Companion Robert S. Finley, KGC, was born on February 22, 1936 in Albuquerque, New Mexico whence the family moved to Western New York in late 1948. Bob graduated from Bemus Point High School in 1954 and attended Jamestown Community College. After college he spent two years in the United States Air Force.

After discharge he returned to Jamestown where he became active in St. Luke's Episcopal Church. It was there he met Kay. They were married in 1961. He worked for C.H. Bromley Motor Lines, a large manufacturer as its New York State Sales Manager, a bedding manufacturer which he owned and operated and three automobile dealers as a salesman and sales manager. On the side, he was a sports play-by-play announcer, broadcasting over 1500 games, at the high school and college level.

While he was serving on the Vestry of his church, he discovered that every other member was a Master Mason and petitioned Mount Moriah Lodge in Jamestown where he was raised in June of 1970. He held plural membership in Peacock Lodge in Mayville where he served as Master. His service to the Grand Lodge of New York included District Deputy Grand Master, Grand Standard Bearer and Grand Marshal. In 2003 he received the Grand Lodge Award of Appreciation and in 2010 the Chancellor Robert Livingston Medal.

Bob joined the Scottish Rite in 1970 in the Valley of Jamestown which he served as Most Wise Master, Commander in Chief, Treasurer and Director of Works. He was coroneted a 33^d Honorary in 1982. Bob joined the Jamestown York Rite Bodies in 1972 where he presided in the Chapter, Council and Commandery. He held the rank of Knight Commander of the Temple and served as Aide-de-camp for the Grand Master of the Grand Encampment. He received the Order of the Purple Cross in 2004. Bob served many other Masonic organizations, including Chief Adept of the New York College of Rosicrucians, being honored with its KGC. He served on the Erie Shrine Hospital Board.

Bob joined St. Mark's Conclave in June of 1977 serving as Sovereign in 1987. He served on the Committee for the Eastern Regional Assembly, chairing it for ten years, and was Intendant General for ten years. He was elected Illustrious Grand Almoner in 2010 and installed on June 6, 2015 as Grand Sovereign.

Over the many years of activity in various Masonic endeavors, Bob used a phrase by the great philosopher, Albert Camus, "Do not walk before me, I may not follow, do not walk behind me, I may not lead, walk beside me, be my friend, and we will lead together." We will all miss walking with Bob.

