THEODORE E. COOLEDGE 1945-2024
Deputy Grand Master 1992

We are constantly reminded of our own fleeting passage through life. As Masons, we come into the Fraternity knowing little to nothing about what the Craft is about; during the course of our initiation we learn enough to recognize each other in the darkness as well as noonday, and as we experience the degrees as a spectator after having experienced them as a participant, we begin to understand more. As officers, and particularly if we serve as Worshipful Master, we become known as well as knowing. For some, there are even higher offices: district roles, Grand Lodge, appendant and affiliate bodies.

Eventually, active Masons become pictures on a wall, or names on the back of a notice. Eventually, those names are removed or have an asterisk attached to them amd the pictures are taken down and put away. All things pass. It's said that every man suffers two deaths: one of the body, when he passes to the Celestial Lodge; and one of memory, when the last one who knows him forgets him, or when he is no longer spoken of.

When providing these memorials, it is sometimes necessary to review and recite the Masonic record and accomplishments of a Mason who made great impact at one time, but who has suffered the first death and now nears the second.

Right Worshipful Brother Theodore E. Cooledge was born in 1945 in Palmer, Massachusetts, and trained for the law; he became a practicing lawyer in that part of the state, and came to Masonry in the customary way: he asked, and the door was opened to him. He petitioned Newton Lodge in Wilbraham and was raised in 1976; in 1984 he was elected Master, and in 1989 and 1990 he served as District Deputy Grand Master of the Springfield 33rd District. In 1992 he was chosen to serve our Grand Lodge as Deputy Grand Master, and he had the distinction of presiding over this body in June of that year while Most Wor. Bro. Edgar Darling was in London for the 275th anniversary of the United Grand Lodge of England. He read an address that Brother Darling had given before that august assembly and then added a few thoughts of his own: that we were privileged to be members of this Fraternity, and that he personally had been able to travel throughout our state and in other jurisdictions to participate in Masonic activities. Massachusetts, he noted, was kept under a "close watch" by other Grand Lodges – it was a leader, as it still is to this day.

It is clear from these and other remarks, including his Feast of St. John Address, that Brother Cooledge took great pride in the Fraternity and in his membership in it. His Masonic record represents a wealth of experience and a depth of knowledge that is not uncommon among our distinguished permanent members. They pass

away, and their memory passes from view, but the work they have contributed to the Temple of Virtue remain, a firm foundation for the builders of the present and those yet to come.