Good evening, Brethren

I have had the enjoyment of attending many celebrations over the last seventeen years as a member of a Group Executive, but it is certainly one of the special privileges of an Assistant Provincial Grand Master to be invited to take part in the celebration of a brother's special anniversary.

Brethren it is said that the greatest happiness a man can have is to you know that he is loved, and the very fact that there are so many brethren here this evening who have made the journey to take part in this evening's celebration only serves to reinforce that statement and shows the high regard that our celebrant is held in.

But to do that I must first tell you (as if you didn't already know!) who that person is…… Brother Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies can you please place WBro Peter Bernard DUGGAN PPrGSuptWks, on the floor of the lodge before me and ensure that he is comfortable.

So Brethren, let us think back to 1952 and what was happening in the world, well in the UK food rationing was still in force seven years after World War II, and the year would see some momentous events:

- February 6th King George VI died, and Queen Elizabeth II acceded the throne
- July 23rd – a military coup overthrew King Farouk in Egypt

- The summer Olympics were held in Helsinki Finland
- November 4th – Dwight D. Eisenhower won the US Presidential election with a landslide victory
- October 3 – the UK detonated its first atomic bomb in Operation Hurricane in Australia
- Jonas Salk developed the first polio vaccine during a severe polio epidemic year in the United States
- December 5-9 the Great Smog of London descended on the city causing thousands of deaths and prompting major air quality reforms.
- Mr Potato Head went on sale as the first toy ever advertised on television

Some very famous people were born in 1952 including, the movie actors Liam Neeson, Jeff Goldblum, Patrick Swaze, Steven Seagal, Mr T of the 'A' Team tv series, Imran Khan, the cricketer, Sharon Osbourne, Vladimir Putin, Russian dictator and probably the most famous of them all **Peter Bernard DUGGAN.**

Peter was born in December 1952 in Liverpool the only child to his parents Bernard, a manager at Ford Motors at Halewood and Mother, Marian, a nurse.

As a young child your family moved to Maghull where you attended St. Andrew's Primary School followed by Brookfield Comprehensive Secondary School in Kirkby where you gained 5 'O' Level qualifications.

In December 1971 you embarked on a career in the Police in the then Liverpool and Bootle Constabulary which in 1974 became Merseyside Police.

After initial training you were posted to 'A' Division in Liverpool City Centre as a uniformed patrol officer.

Your career progressed and your skills as a prolific thief taker were recognised by your peers and managers and you were selected to train as a full time investigator and joined the Criminal Investigation Department serving in various Police Stations in the city centre including the infamous Cheapside CID office known as the 'Bunker' which was part of the Liverpool Main Bridewell, the main lock up for Liverpool attached to the Magistrates Court.

The CID Office was known as the 'Bunker' due to the lack of natural light as it was windowless, the walls were several feet thick with no ventilation especially in the times when smoking was allowed indoors, and the actual working offices were former cells.

During your CID career you decided to specialise in the investigation of drug related crimes and subsequently joined the Force Drug Squad serving all over Merseyside.

It was during this time that you met and worked with a sprightly young Detective named Mark Francis Matthews.

Whilst serving in the Drug Squad, you attended Liverpool John Moores University and there took a MSc in Drug use and Addiction.

Such was your dedication and skill in this specialised area of investigation you became an Expert Witness and were called upon for your advice and guidance across the country.

Whilst working in the Police you served the community in another unformed service, namely as an Adult Volunteer in the Merseyside Army Cadet Force which you joined in 1974 becoming a Sergeant Instructor, you progressed through the ranks and were Commissioned as an Officer, ultimately reaching the rank of Major after ten years' service.

You retired from the Police Service in 2000.

On retirement you set up your own business in the drugs field advising several local authorities involved in harm reduction programmes often being called to give expert evidence in courts including that in the Isle of Man.

You then became a Trustee of several local community drug projects such as 'Drug Free' and 'L8' which are now sadly closed.

It was during this time that your advice was sought by a contact in the Royal British Legion which subsequently led in 2012 to you becoming Chairman of Newton le Willows Boys & Girls Club, an office you still hold.

A further example of your community involvement is that you have been the Vice Chairman of Woolton High School since 2002.

Not content with these worthwhile ventures, in 2017 you returned to your old stamping ground of the Vauxhall area of Liverpool when you became involved as a Trustee in the 'League of Welldoers' community charity hub in Limekiln Lane, and as you told me, you never thought that you would be getting involved in such a project there so many years after you were used to chasing down 'ne're do wells' as a foot patrol Constable.

As the saying goes if you want something doing well give it to a busy man, this is evidenced by your involvement on the committee 'Excelcidor' an organisation for former Merseyside Detectives which continues to this day.

Turning to you family life, you met and courted and subsequently married your wife Marilyn in 1975 and are blessed with three children, who in turn have given you three grandchildren. Sadly, Marilyn passed away in 2022.

An interesting fact you told me which was indicative of the mindset of Police Managers in the 1970's was that one time you were talking to a colleague about your proposed purchase of your house in Rainford, St Helens, which was overheard by a Detective Inspector who told

you that he was also buying a house in the same street as you and queried how you, as a Detective Constable, could possibly afford a house in such a salubrious location.

A few days later you were ordered to report to the Divisional Commander who also questioned how you could afford such a purchase when he could only afford a similar house on the Wirral.

Your response took the wind out of his sails when you told him that your wife Marilyn had a very good job with a bank and your joint salaries and the availability of a very much reduced rate of interest on a mortgage that was how you could contemplate such a move. It is not hard to imagine what both the Inspector and Superintendent's initial thoughts were on your ability to finance the house purchase.

Turning to your Masonic career, you were proposed by your father Bernard as a candidate for Knotty Ash Lodge No 5741, seconded by W.Bro Len Lewis.

Your application was successful and on 10th November 1976 you were initiated in Knotty Ash Lodge. You resigned your member of the lodge in 1988 and on 14th September 1989 you joined this Liverpool Charter Lodge No 7650 becoming Worshipful Master in 1991.

You subsequently served offices in the lodge before once again being installed as Master in 2021.

During this time, you proposed as a candidate for initiation into Liverpool Charter Lodge a friend and former colleague I mentioned earlier, Mark Francis MATTHEWS, and look what happened to him!.

On 22nd August 2018 you joined Centurions of Merseyside Coronation Lodge No 2923 becoming Worshipful Master on 19th November 2018.

Peter you were the driving force behind the rescue from closing of Centurions as we call it, by using your connection with the League of Welldoers as a meeting place for the Lodge.

ou secured masonic furniture and accoutrements to furnish the lodge room and assisted in the refurbishment and re-decorating of the premises to make it suitable for lodge meetings and as a result a number of lodges now meet there, and it is a fitting tribute in recognition of your efforts that the Masonic suite is dedicated to the memory of your dear departed wife, Marilyn.

Peter you continued your Masonic journey by becoming a member of the Royal Arch when you were Exalted into Chapter of Truth No 6235 on 24th April 2002 but you had to resign your membership in 2006 owing to time constraints due to your other community commitments.

Peter your commitment to Freemasonry has quite rightly been recognised by the Province through appointment in 2001 as Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, with successive promotions.

In 2007 you were appointed as Past Provincial Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works and in 2023 you were promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works.

Those honours are not awarded simply because someone has completed fifty years.

They are bestowed because someone has spent fifty years making a difference.

That difference is measured in quiet conversations with new members.

Reliable service when nobody else notices...

Steady leadership...

Wise counsel...

And friendships that last a lifetime.

That, Peter, is your legacy.

The high esteem in which your held in freemasonry is evidenced by the number of Brethren who are here to celebrate your anniversary.

Away from Masonry you've also demonstrated remarkable loyalty elsewhere, as shown by your dedication to the community of Merseyside in your multiple various continuing roles.

There's a pattern emerging here, Brethren.

Once Peter commits to something he sees it through

Brethren, our Order is built not only upon ritual and tradition, but upon people.

People who quietly turn up. People who do the jobs that need doing.

People who support others without seeking recognition.

People who simply make Freemasonry better by being part of it.

Peter you are unquestionably one of those people.

On behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, the Province of West Lancashire, your Lodge, your family and your many friends...

Thank you.

Thank you for fifty years of loyal service.

Thank you for your friendship.

Thank you for your example.

And thank you for reminding us of what a lifelong commitment truly looks like.

Peter I am sure I speak on behalf of everybody present that we are absolutely delighted to see you here this evening to celebrate your 50th anniversary as a freemason and even more so that you have allowed us to celebrate your special evening with you.

Peter such is the importance of your own Golden jubilee that our Provincial Grand Master Right Worshipful Brother Mark Francis Matthews has caused a certificate to be struck to mark this wonderful achievement which I shall now ask the Group Vice Chairman Worshipful Brother John Gibbon to read….

Peter, on behalf of everyone here, I thank you for your service and I congratulate you on achieving this milestone in your masonic career and I hope that you continue to enjoy your freemasonry for many years to come.

Brethren please be upstanding and join me in congratulating W. Bro. Peter Bernard DUGGAN PPrGSuptWks on fifty remarkable years in Freemasonry.

W.Bro. John P. Murphy

Past Senior Grand Deacon

Assistant Provincial Grand Master