



W. Bro. Hagop Keheyan

**Founder of Cyprus Masters' Lodge No. 9655
W.M of St George's Lodge No. 3135 (1966)**

1922 - 2013

Hagop Keheyan was born on 21st November 1922, his parents having fled to Cyprus from Turkey after the First World War. The young Hagop attended the Melikian primary school and then the English school in Nicosia.

By the time he left school both his parents were dead and as he was unable to go to university abroad he found a job in the government as an Assistant District Inspector. He married his wife Stella in April 1947 and spent the rest of his life with her.

It was not long before he discovered his entrepreneurial spirit leaving his government job and setting up his own business, securing various agency representations from the UK, including the Jaegar clothing brand.

This was a stepping stone from which he moved into insurance and banking, proving a pioneer. He represented Warden then Royal Insurance and established the first leasing finance company in Cyprus in the late 1950s.

This was to develop into Lombard Nat West Bank which is today The Alpha Bank.

In Cyprus's Armenian community Hagop was known as 'Mr Lombard.'

A pioneer in property development, he was developing together with the bank, one of the biggest resorts in the Mediterranean at the time in Kyrenia but the Turkish invasion brought the project to an abrupt halt. A natural optimist he refused to be defeated and started again in Paphos establishing a large citrus plantation.

Apart from founding the Cyprus Anti-Cancer society in Cyprus in 1990 he was appointed President of the Cyprus Heart Association. He was also active in many other charitable institutions in Cyprus.

He was an active Freemason being Worshipful Master of St. George's Lodge in 1966 and was a founder member of the Cyprus Masters' Lodge.

A charming, kind and generous man, Hagop was always ready to help anyone, friend or stranger, who sought his support. He was a great reconciler who knew better than most how to bring people together and bring out the best in them.

He is survived by his wife Stella, son Garo, daughter Balinda and grand daughters Stephanie and Olivia and will be sorely missed by all who knew him.