



Tribute to Hercules Gregory Manolas (known as Pep)

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Prepared by: Ella Edelstein



"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven;

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;

A time to kill, and a time to heal, a time to break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance;"

(Extract from Ecclesiastes 3)

As we reflect on the passing of our respected colleague, friend and the legend who was Pep Manolas, it is an honour for me to write this tribute. In whatever role we knew him, from whatever vantage point, he stood apart as someone exceptional. He felt he still had much to do and loved life and all that it offered - his was a life well lived.

Pep's contributions to the pharmacy profession were powerful and his work ethic more than admirableenergy, dedication, integrity are all words that encompass the essence of Pep. He had a gift of innovative thinking, a visionary spirit and the tenacity required for meaningful leadership.

Pep graduated from Rhodes University in 1972 and owned and sold a couple of pharmacies before purchasing Sunward Park Pharmacy, Boksburg in 1986 in which he was still very active until he took ill a few weeks prior to his passing.

He served on the Presidential Committee of the SAACP for almost

22 years and was elected to the position of Honorary Secretary of the SAACP on 21 occasions. He had the honour and privilege of serving under 8 Presidents of the Sector.

Pep became a member of the SAACP Southern Gauteng Branch Committee during 1987 and before serving as the Honorary Secretary of the Southern Gauteng Branch Committee, was the Chairman of the Branch on two separate occasions, i.e. 1992 – 1993 and again 2001 – 2002.

Pep's many awards and recognitions within the SAACP organisation bear testament that his was a distinguished career of considerable importance:

- Honorary Life member of SAACP National
- Honorary Life Member of the SAACP Southern Gauteng Branch
- J B Bloom Memorial Award
- Julius Israelsohn Award
- Trustee of the Community Pharmacy Legal Trust
- Director of Pharmacy Mutual (Pty) Ltd
- Chairman of the Board of Directors of SARCD Trade Exhibitions (Pty) Ltd.

There certainly were times during Committee meetings when feathers were ruffled during heated debate, and meetings and conferences will definitely not be the same without Pep's presence. His insistence on Quality Street Chocolates and cheese platters for meetings at 60 Fanny Avenue, Norwood, Johannesburg are almost legendary.

There is no doubt that those of us who were privileged to work very closely with Pep, i.e. the employees at 60 Fanny Avenue, Norwood, being predominantly SARCD staff, will miss his guidance, leadership and support.

In addition to his passion for his work and the various Committees he served on, Pep was a devoted and caring family man. He is survived by his two sons, Jason and Viron, daughter-in-law, Danielle and grandsons, Achilles and Theodore, who he adored. Heartfelt condolences are extended to his family.

Pep, an esteemed. colleague, scholar, mentor and friend was one of a kind and he will be missed by many, but will never be forgotten by those who were fortunate enough to have known him and worked with him.

Personal tribute to Pep Manolas

Hercules Gregory Manolas, known to all as Pep, sadly passed away suddenly on May 16. "My Greek brother" and I had been friends for over 60 years, in fact our late parents knew one another in our home town of Germiston since the nineteen thirties. Mr Manolas Snr referred to my Dad as Joffe, never by his first name, and this trait was continued by Pep over the years, so I was simply Joffe.

It is not my intention here to mention Pep's many achievements within organised pharmacy's many committees at both Branch and National level as I am sure that this will be written about by those with whom he served for so many decades. Suffice it to say that South African pharmacy, particularly community pharmacy, has lost a colleague, a friend and a tireless worker who served in various capacities in the interests of our profession.

Approximately three months ago during a telephonic discussion, I openly asked Pep when he was going to give up his many involvements within the profession. His answer summed up his love of the profession and the man when he said "Joffe, the Association is my life and I will never cease in our attempts to achieve our ultimate aims and objectives".

During my long association with Pep we laughed, we cried, we agreed with one another and yes, we actually had occasions where we vehemently disagreed with one another. The latter

came to a head just prior to my departure for Australia and it took some time for the wounds to heal. Pep at times could be a very temperamental person, as I'm sure that many can attest to, but one had to understand exactly what made him tick. What do we find behind this façade?

We find a man passionate about his family, a man who deeply loved his profession, a man who loved his country and a man who loved his clients, who had remained so loyal to him over many years. During my lifetime Pep and I enjoyed much happiness together at functions such as family weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, christenings etc and unfortunately we also tasted of the cup of bitterness at many a family funeral.

Conferences and meetings may not be the same without the presence of Pep Manolas but it must be remembered that this man successfully laid many a foundation for others to follow and continue in his footsteps.

My heartfelt condolences are extended to the entire Manolas family particularly to Pep's sons Viron and Jason whose christenings many years ago I remember clearly.

MAY HIS DEAR SOUL REST IN PEACE

Benzie Joffe