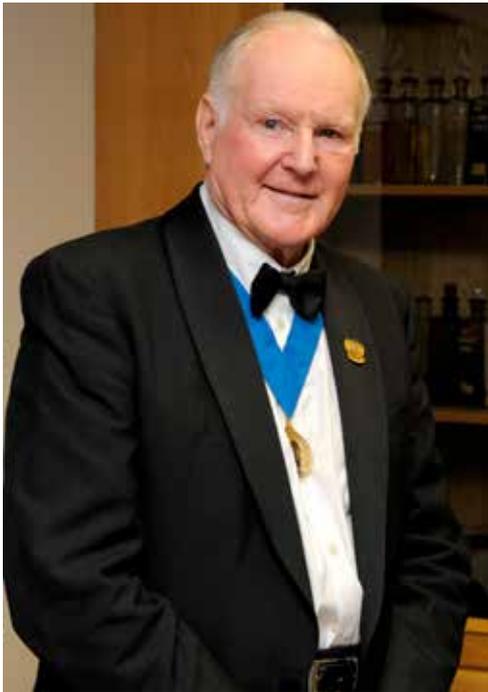




Obituary

William (Billy) Bannatyne 1929-2019



"Service before self"

It was with great sadness that we heard of the passing of Billy Bannatyne on 4 April 2019. On behalf of all his colleagues and the CWP Branch in particular, I offer our sincere condolences to Mrs Bannatyne and all the family.

In pharmacy, he was the ultimate gentleman professional. His insight, leadership and selfless sacrifice for the benefit of our profession could not be matched, as is witnessed by the many honours he received, including the highest honour of the PSSA, the William Paterson Award. Yet I know that all that he accomplished was done simply and sincerely for the benefit of his colleagues and the profession. While he certainly appreciated all the accolades he so richly deserved, being the humble man that he was, I surmise that a simple "Thank you!" would have sufficed!

So, on behalf of all my colleagues, I simply wish to say to Mrs Bannatyne and all the family, "Thank you!" for all the support and time you so generously gave in allowing him to play such an important role in our lives and profession.

Billy Bannatyne epitomized the saying, "Service before Self",... service to his family, country and his chosen profession of pharmacy.

One of Billy's great qualities, which is often overlooked when reflecting on his long list of contributions to our profession, is the mentorship he provided to generations of pharmacists. As employees, both my wife Anne, and I benefitted greatly from his guidance, encouragement and support. As a member of the Branch Committee, I benefitted from his experience, example and insight. His mentorship role and enthusiasm for encouraging new ventures and research by his younger colleagues was realised in the establishment of the Alf Radis Award, named in memory of the late Alf Radis, Billy's friend and colleague who also welcomed innovation and progress. Today there are many pharmacists who benefitted from this award which enabled them to acquire additional degrees, knowledge and opportunities for professional growth.

Billy was actively involved in the PSSA for more than 50 years. He was elected to the CWP Branch Committee in 1963 and served continuously to 2015. He served the Committee in every capacity from Minute Secretary to Branch Chairman: 1970/71, Treasurer: 1979-1988 and Honorary Life Member: 1980. The list of awards bestowed on him at Branch, Sector and National PSSA levels further indicates the extent of his contribution to the profession and the esteem in which he is held by his peers.

In his passion for the profession and in pursuit of the objectives of the Society, Billy was a power for change and initiated numerous projects to resolve problems facing the profession.

The following projects, although, initiated at a Branch level had positive consequences for the entire profession:

- He oversaw the modernisation and computerisation of the CWP Branch Central Paying Office (CPO), transforming it from a small administrative office to one of the most efficient CPOs, fully computerised, employing in excess of 40 people with the highly respected Gus Ferguson as the Director. He served on the Contracts Management Committee of PSSA Contracts (Pty) Ltd – later known as MediKredit. He coined the name, MediKredit and championed its development.
- He was the founder of the Branch newsletter, *The Tincture Press*, in 1972 and had been the editor ever since. Other Branches emulated this example of good communication with the members.
- He chaired the PSSA/CPA Liaison Committee which fought doggedly for private sector pharmacy to provide the service

of dispensing for state patients. An effective service was established and administered through the local paying office for many years. The positive impact of this service saw the establishment of many new pharmacies in the country areas of the Western Cape.

- An active member of the Society for the History of Pharmacy, he initiated the project which resulted in the publication of the book, *A History of Organised Pharmacy in South Africa – 1885-1950* by Mike Ryan. Through *Tincture Press* publications other books including, the *Best of Tincture Press*, *The Three Lieschings* and *Walter Froembling – Pharmacist and Man* were published.
- *Daily Drug Use* is now a recognised important reference book. It was Billy who headed the project of publishing this important resource and obtaining the services of the late Joe Talmud as the first editor. Another reference book, *First Aid – anywhere anytime*, edited by Cyril Tucker, was initially published by the Branch under Billy's watch.
- It was during his tenure as Treasurer of the CWP Branch that the Society sponsored a pharmacist, Dewald Gerber, to work at the Medicines Information Centre. The late Joe Talmud was the second appointee to this position. This sponsorship over a period of about 8 years helped to establish the MIC as a valuable national resource and created many opportunities for pharmacists in the field of medicine information.
- Billy wrote the protocols for the CWP Branch Past Chairman's dinner, known as the *Senate Dinner*. This tradition has subsequently been emulated by other Branches.

His tenure as a member of the PSSA National Executive (1970-1982) included being President for the period 1975-1976. His work on the National Executive included:

- Responsibility for the first comprehensive revision of the PSSA Constitution resulting in a new Constitution which formed the basis of the current document.
- He initiated the investigation and chaired the first two committees which culminated in Syncom and Healthcare 2000. These projects resulted in a marked change to the practice of pharmacy, opening many new opportunities for colleagues.
- Billy was a particularly active member of the Fellows Committee.
- Even after completing his term of office on the National Executive, he continued to be involved in national projects, including being one of the co-ordinators of the PSSA's "Operation Delta campaign" in 1988 which sought to resolve the trading doctor problem.

Billy served on the Community Pharmacist Sector CWP Branch Committee from 1979 to 2015. He served on the National Executive of CPS from 1985-2009 and as President from 1990-1992. His work at this level was again characterised by diligent service and practical proposals in promoting community pharmacy, including:

- Organising the CPS NEC into task forces e.g. David Bayever was specifically tasked to establish DrugWise.

- Strengthening the liaison with the Pharmaceutical Society, particularly regarding negotiations with the Minister of Health concerning the dispensing doctor issue.
- In 1990 he attended, on behalf of SAARP, the International meeting of Community Pharmacy Organisations.
- For his organisational ability, negotiation skills with officials at the National and Provincial Departments of Health and diligence in promoting community pharmacy, he deservedly was awarded the Julius Israelsohn Award and the Sam Moss Award and became an Honorary Life Member of the CPS Sector in 2010.

Billy was elected to the South African Pharmacy Council in 1977 and served on it until 1988. He served on the Practice and Tariff Committees and chaired the Preliminary Investigation committee from its inception until he left the Council. He also acted as an inspector for the SAPC for many years before the current inspectorate system was established.

In business, outside of his community pharmacy, Billy served his colleagues as a Director of the co-operative wholesaler, Amalgamated Chemists Association and was Chairman of the Board from 1986-1988. Here too, his insight, drive and organisational skills were used to transform ACA from a small wholesaler/buying group into a modern full-line wholesaler at new premises in Montague Gardens as the fore-runner of the company, known as UPD.

Billy lectured, examined and moderated in Forensic Pharmacy at the Cape Technikon and UCT using his knowledge and experience to promote the profession.

Billy volunteered for the Citizen Force in 1950 and was commissioned a year later. His exemplary military career serves as witness to his impeccable character and integrity and willingness to serve his fellow man. This was recognised by him being awarded the John Chard Medal and Decoration.

In conclusion, I could do no better than to quote Dr Natie Finkelstein, who on the occasion of bestowing the William Paterson Award on Billy, said the following:

"Whilst all the achievements mentioned are indeed meritorious, these pale into insignificance when regard is had to Billy's incisive mind, his legendary courage of his convictions, his notable ethical approach and exemplary professionalism, his loyalty towards his colleagues, his passion for the pharmacy profession and his impeccable honesty and integrity."

We salute you, Billy, as a worthy recipient of the William Paterson Award.

Your example of dedicated and selfless contributions to the pharmaceutical profession as well as your exceptional and consistent involvement for more than 50 years should be our inspiration in striving for perfection and always unstintingly placing service before self."

May he rest in peace

Gary Black