

### **In Memoriam – Kris Bassi, FCSCE**

It was with great sadness that friends of Kris Bassi heard of his death, after a brief illness, on March 13, 2018, at the age of 86. Since 2007 he had lived in Yellowknife, after spending his Canadian working career in Toronto with the Bridge Office of the Ontario Ministry of Transportation where he headed the Design Section for his last 12 years before retiring in 1993.

Born in Kenya, Kris received his engineering education at the University of London, with a B.Sc. (1951), an Imperial College Diploma in Concrete Technology (1952), and an M.Sc. (1954). He came to Canada in 1957 and began an outstanding career as a bridge designer where he soon gained international recognition for his expertise in elegant, efficient and visually attractive prestressed concrete structures.

I think Kris would have selected the twinning of the Burlington Skyway which opened in 1985 as his choice for his most important bridge design. He was in charge of the innovative design, including that of the 495ft. main span in segmental cast-in-place prestressed concrete. With the balanced cantilever method of construction no falsework was needed. At the time, this was the Ministry's largest project.

In the mid-1970s, Kris was the leading member of the Bridge Office involved in making a proposal that the Ministry develop its own Bridge Design Code, using the newly evolving limit states method rather than the old working stress method. The resulting Ontario Highway Bridge Design Code (1979) was the first limit states design code, and this method is now used universally. Kris headed the concrete and prestressed concrete chapter committees for this code; subsequent CSA Codes are now used by all provinces.

Kris had been an active member of the Society and was named a Fellow in 1999. In 1994 he was the recipient of its A.B. Sanderson Award for the development and practice of structural engineering in Canada. He was a valuable member of the Organizing Committee for the CSCE's first International Conference on Short and Medium Span Bridges held in 1982. This very successful conference continues to be held every four years. At the 1986 conference, Kris Bassi received the outstanding paper award. Over the years, he had contributed many conference papers and received awards such as those from the Prestressed Concrete Institute.

After Kris lost his wife, Elizabeth, he decided to move to Yellowknife to be close to his daughter, Sheila. The alternative was to join his son, Kristopher, in Dubai – even further away. On a personal note, I missed our golf games, but we kept in touch through the years by regular exchanges of bridge engineering magazines and messages. Looking back, I realize how fortunate I was in having my friend Kris in charge of the Design Section of the MTO Bridge Office for most of my years as manager. Nobody could have been better.

Roger Dorton, FCSCE

