



THE HONOURABLE  
ALAN ROCKWELL ABRAHAM

FEBRUARY 1, 1931 - OCTOBER 2, 2020







# MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL

LIEUTENANT-COLONEL THE HONOURABLE  
**ALAN ROCKWELL ABRAHAM**  
CM, ONS, CD, DCL, DENG

27TH LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR OF NOVA SCOTIA  
(1984-1989)

OCTOBER 8, 2020

ST. MARY'S CATHEDRAL BASILICA  
HALIFAX

# OBITUARY

One of the most distinguished Nova Scotians of his generation, former Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia the Hon. Alan Rockwell Abraham, died peacefully at the age of 89 on Friday, October 2, 2020, surrounded by his children, Louise Abraham-Pace (Robert Pace); Alan Abraham Jr. (Janet Merrithew); and Robert Abraham. He was predeceased by his truly beloved wife and partner of 58 years, Rose Marie (Belliveau) Abraham.

Alan was born in Halifax on February 1, 1931, the son of James David Abraham and Marie Louise (Rockwell) Abraham. He was the middle child of three, remaining close to his siblings, the late James Abraham and Ann Smith, throughout their lives. Together, they grew up in the midst of a large, loving and extremely lively Scotch-Irish extended family. Alan was educated at Oxford School in Halifax's west end and then at Saint Mary's University High School. He was an engineering student at Saint Mary's University until his father's sudden and early death meant Alan needed to leave school to work to help support his family. Alan's active curiosity and keen intellect made him a lifelong learner, later studying corporate governance at the Richard Ivey School of Business at Western University. Alan was recognized with two honorary degrees— a Doctor of Engineering from Dalhousie University in 1984 and a Doctor of Civil Laws from Saint Mary's University in 2002.

Alan's first job was as a construction supervisor with Atlantic Bridge Company. He was next in the engineering department of the City of Halifax, before becoming president and CEO of Maritime Warehousing and Transfer, a position he held from 1965-1984. He left when he was appointed Lieutenant Governor of Nova Scotia by then Prime Minister Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who felt that Alan's military service as a Commanding Officer (Lieutenant Colonel) of the Princess Louise Fusiliers, combined with his business and volunteer experience, made him an excellent choice for the role. Alan was 53 years old at the time—the youngest Lieutenant Governor in Canada's history.

Alan's list of awards is long and matched only by his pride and genuine humility in accepting them. He was enormously grateful for the recognitions he received and to the institutions that bestowed them on him.



It is noteworthy that in 1997, he was appointed a Member of the Order of Canada. In 1998, he was made a Fellow of the Institute of Corporate Directors. And, in 2001, he was one of the first people inducted into the Order of Nova Scotia.

Alan was just 17 years old when his father died. Within six months that year, he had lost not just his father, but also three of his father's brothers—all suddenly and far too young. Those deaths, he said, made him mindful of how important it was to do something good with the time you are given in life. Alan was involved as president, chair, or vice-chair of almost 30 organizations—all volunteer positions. He was determined to give all of the talents he had to help the causes that he believed in. In fact, he insisted we not mention any one in particular because he cared for them equally. We trust that the legacy he built by donating his fierce loyalty, intelligence and boundless enthusiasm to these organizations stands in their histories and in the shape of their futures as a testament to his character and love.

Alan was a lifelong Haligonian and a proud Nova Scotian. He was among the last of the generation whose childhoods were marked by the Depression. He remembered the kindness of a city where his family's landlord allowed them to live for free in their flat on Windsor Street throughout the Depression and then—when it ended—wouldn't allow them to pay back the accumulated rent they owed. Where little boys flew homing pigeons from Truro to Halifax. Where extended families scraped together money to try and send children to school. Alan carried that sense of kindness and grace throughout his life and his interactions with others. He loved nothing more than to ask—with sincere interest—about you. He was a lively conversationalist with a quick wit and a ready smile. But more than that—he was a gentleman who had a deep and abiding sense of the humanity and worth of every person he encountered.

In addition to his children, Alan leaves behind the six grandchildren he adored and who brought him so much joy: Rebecca Pace (Dan Pajek); Sarah Beth Pace (Sean Borden); David Pace and Emma Pace; MacKenzie Abraham and Lindsay Abraham, and the three great-granddaughters who delighted him in his final years: Ella and Poppy Pajek and Livia Borden.

The family would like to acknowledge the tireless efforts and compassionate care of their father and mother over many decades by Dr. Patricia Beresford. Also, special thanks to the staff at Parkland at the Gardens.





# HONOURARY PALLBEARERS

Members of the Princess Louise Fusiliers

## CELEBRANT

Father Paul Morris  
Rector, St. Mary's Cathedral Basilica

## CON-CELEBRANT

Father John Williams

## SOLOIST

Heather Rankin

## ACCOMPANIST

Lisa MacDougall





# ORDER OF SERVICE

## PRELUDE

## EULOGY

Jim Abraham

## PROCESSIONAL HYMN

### *All Creatures of Our God and King*

All creatures of our God and King,  
lift up your voice and with us sing  
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou burning sun with golden beam,  
thou silver moon with softer gleam,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou rushing wind that art so strong,  
ye clouds that sail in heav'n along,  
O praise him, alleluia!

Thou rising morn, in praise rejoice,  
ye lights of evening, find a voice,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Thou flowing water, pure and clear,  
make music for thy Lord to hear,  
alleluia, alleluia!

Thou fire so masterful and bright,  
that givest man both warmth and light,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

And all ye men of tender heart,  
forgiving others, take your part,  
O sing ye, alleluia!

Ye who long pain and sorrow bear,  
praise God and on him cast your care,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Let all things their Creator bless,  
and worship him in humbleness,  
O praise him, alleluia!

Praise, praise the Father, praise the Son,  
and praise the Spirit, three in one,  
O praise him, O praise him,  
alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!





## FIRST READING

**Book of Wisdom 3:1-5,9**

Louise Abraham-Pace

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

**The Lord Is My Shepherd - Psalm 23:1-3,4,5,6**

Louise Abraham-Pace

Response: I shall live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life.

## SECOND READING

**2 Timothy 4:6-8**

Heather Chiasson

## GOSPEL

**John 14:1-6**

## HOMILY

Father Paul Morris







## PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Andra Abraham

Response: Lord, hear our prayer.

## OFFERTORY HYMN

### *Abide With Me*

Abide with me, fast falls the eventide  
The darkness deepens Lord, with me abide  
When other helpers fail and comforts flee  
Help of the helpless, oh, abide with me

Swift to its close ebbs out life's little day  
Earth's joys grow dim, its glories pass away  
Change and decay in all around I see  
O Thou who changest not, abide with me

I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to bless  
Ills have no weight, and tears no bitterness  
Where is death's sting?  
Where, grave, thy victory?  
I triumph still, if Thou abide with me

Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing eyes  
Shine through the gloom and point me to the skies  
Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee  
In life, in death, o Lord, abide with me  
Abide with me, abide with me





## COMMUNION HYMN

### *Be Not Afraid*

You shall cross the barren desert  
But you shall not die of thirst  
You shall wander far in safety  
Though you do not know the way  
You shall speak your words to foreign men  
And they will understand  
You shall see the face of God and live

Be not afraid  
I go before you always  
Come, follow me and I will give you rest

If you pass through raging waters in the sea  
You shall not drown  
If you walk amid the burning flames  
You shall not be harmed  
If you stand before the power of hell  
And death is at your side  
Know that I am with you through it all

Be not afraid  
I go before you always  
Come, follow me and I will give you rest

And blessed are your poor  
For the kingdom shall be theirs  
Blest are you that weep and mourn  
For one day you shall laugh  
And if wicked men insult and hate you  
All because of me  
Blessed, blessed are you

Be not afraid  
I go before you always  
Come, follow me and I will give you rest





## POST COMMUNION MEDITATION

*Ave Maria*

## CLOSING PRAYER

## SONG OF FAREWELL

*Songs of the Angels*

May songs of the angels welcome you and guide you along your way.  
May the smiles of the martyrs greet you now as darkness turns into day.  
Every fear will be undone and death will be no more,  
As songs of the angels bring you home before the face of God.





## PRAYER OF FINAL COMMENDATION

### RECESSIONAL HYMN

#### *On Eagles Wings*

You who dwell in the shelter of the Lord  
Who abide in His shadow for life  
Say to the Lord, "My refuge, my rock in  
whom I trust!"

And He will raise you up on eagles'  
wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

The snare of the fowler will never  
capture you  
And famine will bring you no fear  
Under His wings your refuge, His  
faithfulness your shield

And He will raise you up on eagles'  
wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

You need not fear the terror of the night  
Nor the arrow that flies by day  
Though thousands fall about you, near  
you it shall not come

And He will raise you up on eagles'  
wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand

For to His angels He's given a command  
To guard you in all of your ways  
Upon their hands they will bear you up  
Lest you dash your foot against a stone

And He will raise you up on eagles'  
wings  
Bear you on the breath of dawn  
Make you to shine like the sun  
And hold you in the palm of His hand  
And hold you, hold you in the palm of  
His hand





### *Rise Again*

When the waves roll on over the waters  
And the ocean cries  
We look to our sons and daughters  
To explain our lives  
As if a child could tell us why

That as sure as the sunrise  
As sure as the sea  
As sure as the wind in the trees  
We rise again in the faces  
Of our children  
We rise again in the voices of our song  
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean  
And then we rise again

When the light goes dark with the forces of creation  
Across a stormy sky  
We look to reincarnation to explain our lives  
As if a child could tell us why

That as sure as the sunrise  
As sure as the sea  
As sure as the wind in the trees  
We rise again in the faces  
Of our children  
We rise again in the voices of our song  
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean  
And then we rise again

We rise again in the faces  
Of our children  
We rise again in the voices of our song  
We rise again in the waves out on the ocean  
And then we rise again





*"No matter what challenges might carry us apart, we will always find a way back to each other."*

THE FAMILY WISHES TO THANK  
THE PRINCESS LOUISE FUSILIERS  
PALLBEARERS FOR THEIR PARTICIPATION IN  
THE MASS TODAY.

SPECIAL THANKS TO NOVA SCOTIA  
PROTOCOL AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE FOR  
ALL OF THEIR KIND AND GENEROUS  
ASSISTANCE.





