

Alan Howard Finley, M.D.

December 22, 1925 – December 7, 2013

It is with hearts united in love, we announce the passing of our wonderful Alan H Finley, MD: pioneer in Emergency Pediatrics and Disaster Preparedness; Primary Care Physician to a quarter million children; Professor of Pediatrics at six medical schools in three countries on two continents, including inaugural Faculties at Nairobi and Calgary; a recipient of a Commendation from the President of the United States for “exceptional service to others in the finest humanitarian tradition” – but most of all, a great lover of family, friends and animals; music, nature and art; travel, adventure and song; Dr Seuss, Les Habs and telling the same joke.

Visionary, provocateur, philosopher king, Alan was driven by a compassionate heart, a tireless energy and a gentlemanly attitude; his joie de vivre, ribald humour and infinite grace touched all who crossed his path. His insatiable curiosity was guided by a never-ending quest to do the right thing, believe the best of people, and inspire those he loved. Husband to Shirley (nee Bondelid of Port Angeles, Washington); Dad to Brenda (Martin Scott), Donna, Brian (Donna Bennett); Grand Bug to Benjamin & Adam Finley, Rebecca, Jeffery and Mary Schidlowsky, and Caitlin Lindberg; stepfather to Craig (Kish nee Mikami) and Jay Lindberg; brother to Mary Riley (nee Finley); brother-in-law to Rae Finley (nee Hunter); and uncle, colleague and friend to countless others. He was pre-deceased by his first wife, mother of his children, Nan Verna Finley (nee Kennedy of Westmount, Montreal); his siblings (Shirley (Lloyd Paul), Hartland (Margaret nee Mackay) and Gault “Skip”); and many devoted four-legged friends.

Born to E. Marjorie Ross and Eric B. Finley of Westmount, Montreal, ‘Bug’ attended Roslyn School and Bishop’s College

School, before enlisting in the Canadian Armed Forces in 1943. At age 18, he earned the rank of Lieutenant (Infantry) with the Canadian Black Watch and for a few months, was the youngest officer in the Canadian Army.

Alan studied Medicine at McGill University, with residencies at Harvard, McGill and Cincinnati. His medical, academic and administrative career spanned 45 years: Montreal Children's Hospital (McGill); Children's Hospital of Los Angeles (USC); Kenyatta National Hospital (University of Nairobi); Foothills Hospital (University of Calgary); Children's Hospital of Cincinnati (University of Cincinnati); and Seattle Children's Hospital (University of Washington).

From the heights of Kilimanjaro to a knee-deep portage in the woods of Quebec, Alan sang his way through life. He began as a boy soprano in 1939 with a heart-stopping rendition of Mabel (Pirates of Penzance), then graduated to a collection of highly censurable canoeing songs, only to emerge (unscathed) a lifelong tenor in a number of Anglican/Episcopalian Cathedral Choirs. In mid-career, he rediscovered an early passion and in 12 years painted 50-plus oils of his beloved animals and nature.

A celebration of Alan's life will be held at 2 pm on Saturday, December 21, 2013 at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria. In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Westben Arts Festival Theatre, P.O. Box 1413, Campbellford, Ontario, K0L 1L0 (705) 653-5508 (www.westben.ca) (co-founded by his son and daughter-in-law); or the Dean's Discretionary Fund at Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria – Alan's final spiritual home.

With all our love – Doxology. “Take any heart – take mine!”

Condolences may be offered to the family below.

McCall Bros. Funeral Home

www.mccallbros.com.

