



Alan W. Roth

MAR 6, 1947 - OCT 12, 2020



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Alan W. Roth

MAR 6, 1947 - OCT 12, 2020

All are invited to participate via live-streaming of the services by visiting the following link on Sunday October 25th at 3:00PM
<https://webcasts.lifetributes.com/1095826>

On Monday, October 12, 2020, Alan White Roth, loving partner and father of three, passed away at his home in Milton, Delaware, from anaplastic large cell lymphoma. He was 73 years old.

Alan was born in Lewes, Delaware, at Beebe Hospital on March 6, 1947. He spent most of his childhood in Michigan; however, his mother's hometown of Lewes remained near and dear to him throughout his life. His grandfather, Dr. Richard Beebe, was a founding partner of the Beebe Hospital, and Alan spent summers at his grandmother's house on Savannah Road in Lewes, which today houses the Beebe Medical Foundation. After receiving his bachelor's degree from Eastern Michigan University (EMU) in 1970 with a US Army commission from the ROTC, Alan held his swearing-in ceremony at the Naval Facility Lewes at Cape Henlopen. Following that, he left for Fort Benning, Georgia, where he attended the Officer Basic Course, Airborne School, and Ranger School, or, as he liked to describe it, "the Army's way of ruining a perfectly good camping trip." He spent the remainder of his military service at Fort Richardson, Alaska. He stopped counting the number of times he jumped out of an airplane during his time in the Army at 126.

After leaving the Army, Alan returned to Michigan to raise a family and had three sons. He also returned to EMU to complete his master's degree in land use analysis and remote sensing. His career focused on geographic information systems and mapping. He wrote four field manuals on the subject and taught related courses at Delaware Technical University and Delaware Community College. He also invented a modern survey and mapping software known as Retriever Automated Surveying and Mapping Systems that revolutionized how surveyors collect data in the field and create maps, leading the transformation of a paper-based industry to more modern automation techniques. EMU lauded this work in 1995 when it recognized Alan as a distinguished alumnus.



Obituary

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Alan was an avid storyteller, history buff, hunter, and conservationist. He was a member of and contributor to the Ruffed Grouse Society, which works with landowners and government agencies to develop critical habitats for grouse, woodcock, and other wildlife utilizing scientific management practices. Alan enjoyed the gift of gab and was able to recall facts about American history to an incredible level of detail. These skills served him well in retirement when he worked for Delaware Historical and Cultural Affairs and could frequently be found at the Zwaanendael Museum. Early mornings, he spent time at the Lewes Bake Shoppe, where he'd regale locals with stories and a joke or two. He'd always start with a "have I told you the one about?" His love for people knew no bounds. Alan accepted people as they were and was a kind and generous soul.

Alan was preceded in death by his father, George Sydney Roth; his mother, Violet Beebe; and his eldest son, David Beebe Roth, who died while on active duty at the US Army Airborne School at Fort Benning. He is survived by his longtime partner, Ellen Fontana of Milton, Delaware; his sons: Jeffrey Roth of Brooklyn, New York and Michael Roth of Negaunee, Michigan; his daughter-in-law, Janice Roth of Wixom, Michigan; his sister and brother: Cathy Roth and Peter Roth both of Howell, Michigan; and his grandchildren: Samantha Roth of Commerce Township, Michigan and Gunnar and Lavinia Roth of Negaunee, Michigan.

A memorial service will be held on Sunday, October 25, 2020 at 3:00 PM at Parsell Funeral Homes and Crematorium, Atkins-Lodge Chapel, 16961 Kings Highway, Lewes, DE, where friends may visit beginning at 2:00 PM.

All are invited to participate via live-streaming of the services by visiting the following link on Sunday October 25th at 3:00PM <https://webcasts.lifetributes.com/1095826>

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions to the Ruffed Grouse Society at www.ruffedgrousesociety.org.

Please sign the online guestbook located on the tribute page.




Events

Alan W. Roth

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Visitation

 **Sunday**, October 25, 2020

 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET


 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-
Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958



Memorial Service

 **Sunday**, October 25, 2020

 3:00 PM ET

 **Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-
Atkins-Lodge Chapel**

16961 Kings Highway, Lewes DE 19958





Tribute Wall

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SP

Sherman C Puckett posted:

I wish to honor a friend who shared with me his love of American history and nurtured my own and inspired my work on the History of the African American Electorate. Alan, you were a great friend and I miss you. Thank you for the memories. Always in my heart, Sherman Puckett.

July 5 at 5:13 PM



Beebe Frazer posted:

I was honored to offer this poem at Alan's service. He took it to heart when I recited it at my dad's funeral in July 2002. Harry Frazer and Alan truly understood each other. FLIGHT TO FREEDOM, BY RABINDRANATH TAGORE
My love, my heart
Let his time of parting be sweet.
Let it not be a death, but completeness.
Let your love melt into memory
And your pain into songs. Let your flight through the sky
Begin with the unfolding of wings.
Let the last touch of your hands
Be gentle, like the flower of the night.
Stand still, oh beautiful Love, for a moment
And say your last words in silence.
I bow to you and hold up my candle
To give light to you on your flight to freedom. '

October 26 at 12:13 PM

RP

Ralph Pasola posted:

Alan, rest in peace. It's been many years since we talked. Probably over 20 years. Once meeting you how could I forget you. We met when you were a GIS consultant back in the mid 1990's. We were trying to get Washtenaw County to employ GIS - to no avail. I retired a few years later and you moved to Delaware. I didn't know your family well however, I got a peek at your son's funeral many years ago. I'm glad you found happiness. It was an honor knowing you. Ralph Pasola, Ann Arbor, Michigan

October 26 at 6:59 AM



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EG

Elizabeth Gott posted:

Alan was a true gentleman and I am honored to have known him. I first met Alan at the Bakery when he would ask me questions about Lewes, history and anything else he and his "breakfast buddies" were contemplating. I specifically remember a question about the difference between fraternal and identical twins. And then, one day he came to work with us at the Zwaanendael Museum. I had the privilege of working with Alan at the museum for many years and through lots of fun and exciting programs and tours. He enhanced everything he worked on and pursued, enthraling museum visitors with his awesome stories about Lewes and Delaware history. The town of Lewes will not be the same without you, Alan. You are deeply missed. Thanks for being my friend and colleague. Beth Gott

October 25 at 2:00 PM

JB

Jeb Bakke posted:

I first heard of Alan when my Dad worked with him at the BPW doing GPS and surveying, he would come home from work with stories to tell about Alan. However, I did not meet Alan myself until he came to the Zwaanendael Museum. He was a fascinating man and I will always treasure the time I got to work with him. It was quite impressive watching him draw in large crowds who were enjoying themselves immensely listening to him masterfully recite Lewes history. It was sad to see him leave the museum and it is even sadder that he is no longer with us, but I'm sure he's making the afterlife an even brighter place. My condolences to his family and friends. - Jeb Bakke

October 25 at 1:10 PM

DM

Dave Morrison posted:

Alan, May God be with you, now and forever. Although I did not know you until the past few years I always looked forward to you sharing the many activities that were currently going on in your life. You will most certainly be missed however not forgotten because you have touched so many hearts along your life's journey. I thank you for your generosity shown to my Dad. As a fellow Army Airborne trooper he always enjoyed your conversation and company. He was very proud to call you a Friend. "Salute to you Friend" Eternal Peace is now yours my Friend, Sincerely, Dave Morrison

October 25 at 10:59 AM



Anonymous sent an Arrive in Style to the Roth family.



October 24 at 5:40 AM



Tribute Wall

Alan W. Roth

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Anonymous sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Roth family.

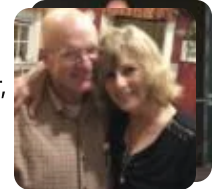


October 24 at 4:46 AM



Ron shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Alan was a great guy. He always had a smile and a story to tell. He loved my sister, Ellen, dearly. One of my fondest memory of Alan was at my nephew's wedding, when he and Ellen stepped out onto the veranda to share a private dance together.



October 24 at 4:21 AM



Beebe Frazer October 24 at 12:03 PM

I love these pictures, and your loving words Ron. Thank you for sharing them. Cousin Beebe



Rachelle Wolfe posted:

Dear Michael and Jeff I am deeply saddened by the loss of your dad. He was always smiling and laughing. I love when you guys shoot your canon off it reminds me of your dad. Thoughts and prayers for you and your families. Live Rachelle

October 22 at 12:16 PM



Tom Pulmano posted:

There is so little one can say, And less that one can do; When precious loved ones pass away, Those loved ones dear and true. Yet, in such grief, their is a glow, that shines right through the gloom; by which the grieving heart can know, They're where life's in full bloom For in the place where they have gone, Who loved and served the Lord; No ill or death shall ever come, It's written in God's Word. So, hope can the replace despair, And sorrow turn to joy; The life they have with God up there, No more shall death destroy! Goodbye Dear Friend! Tom

October 21 at 9:16 AM



Tribute Wall

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Miriam Pomilio shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Very sad to hear about Alan's passing. He was an avid supporter of our GIS Day Field trip for 5th graders every year. He enjoyed sharing his knowledge with the youth and was a great man. He will be missed. Miriam Pomilio

October 21 at 5:40 AM



Anonymous sent a Beautiful in Blue to the Roth family.

October 20 at 5:24 PM



George Riordan posted:

October 20 at 1:59 PM



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MK

Mike Kearns posted:

Al and I became friends when we were both in the Army stationed at Fort Richardson, Alaska. That would be about 1972 or 3. We hunted together in Alaska many times, some times with success. We both had hunting dogs, we thought. I had a black lab named Lil. She loved to go duck hunting with us— but she refused to retrieve anything. Al had some shaggy beast he called a Golden Retriever. It didn't retrieve either, in fact it loved to run around like a race horse. So you would have two young guys in a marsh, one bellowing at his dog to get the duck, and the other yelling at his dog to come back to the duck blind. But we had fun. We stayed in touch over the years and I have been fortunate to have hunted with Al in Kansas and his beloved Michigan. I am missing him mightily. Mike Kearns

October 20 at 11:58 AM

JD

John Deiner October 24 at 1:45 PM

If you are lucky you sometimes meet someone in your life who just stands out. Alan was one of those. We spent many hours with him at a local coffee house and restaurants. One favorite memory is that he often drew diagrams and plans on napkins to illustrate his stories. Inevitably he noted that these were "not to scale". That was Alan - "not to scale" but rather way above the scale. He was thoughtful, wise, and funny. We miss him. John and Penny Deiner

TW

Tom Welch October 22 at 12:12 PM

For the past ten years, I have enjoyed working with Alan as members of the staff of the Division of Historical and Cultural Affairs. He had a great sense of wry humor and clearly was a team player who did whatever was needed to make our museums work smoothly and with a positive sense of team work. Tom Welch Old State House

ST

Steve October 22 at 6:11 AM

A wonderfully witty intellectual. Enjoyed every moment together. The world would be better with more gentlemen such as this great man. I miss you already, sir.

LR

Lea Rosell posted:

Alan - we sure will miss seeing you at the Lewes Public Library. Your wonderful stories were always such a source of humor and lightheartedness. Your family and friends are in our thoughts. We will miss you.

October 19 at 9:50 AM



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FL

Frank Laurence posted:

Unfortunately, I never met Allen Roth, but judging by the many comments and the character of his son Jeff, I certainly wish I had. He sounds like he was a good natured soul, and a lover of people, nature, and good stories. I am sure Allen will be missed by many he knew and loved him. Let your hearts rest easy knowing Allen no longer struggles with illness and is held in God's hands. With great compassion and condolences, Frank Laurence Gaylord, Michigan

October 17 at 1:30 PM

FL

Frank Laurence October 20 at 4:08 AM

A donation in the name of Allen Roth has been made to the Michigan Harvest Gathering in an effort to feed those in need.

CM

Cathy Mcneill posted:

Oh sweet Alan, raconteur extraordinaire, walking encyclopedia, creator, inventor and restorer, who cared so deeply about the natural world and all the creatures in it, his beloved family, including its canine members, and his many friends. How we will miss his rambling monologues and his wonderful jokes, all delivered with those twinkling eyes and that broad Alan smile. To Ellen I can only say my heart aches for you, your friends are here for you, and know that Alan will always hold a special place in our memories as one who lived life to the fullest and brought joy and laughter to us who are so lucky to have known him. Cathy McNeill

October 17 at 6:50 AM

GR

George Riordan posted:

While I could share many stories of Alan's great humanity, interests, tall tales and buoyancy, these two points stick out for me: I once read that "a hero is someone who makes his [or her] own way in the world." Indeed, classical mythologies are not only full of tales of great warriors, but also of those heroes who embark on their own odysseys or personal quests. Thus, Alan, who always went about his life odyssey with his own individual panache, qualifies as a full hero. In the end, Alan taught me to widen the scope of my vision, as he encouraged me to look at the world through his eyes, examining small and beautiful points of nature, or moments of history, or in his relating the stories of others. Thank you for bringing these things to life for me, Alan. – George Riordan (first cousin, from the Roth side of the family)

October 17 at 6:42 AM



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Kaitlyn Dykes sent a Small Garden Dish to the Roth family.

October 17 at 6:34 AM



Anonymous sent a Sweet Remembrance Spray to the Roth family.

October 16 at 6:04 PM



Richard Frazer shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

1953 Christmas gathering at the Beebe residence in Lewes, Delaware: Mrs. Edna Beebe with her grandchildren and the Roth family.

October 16 at 2:15 PM



Richard Frazer shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

Here is a photo of Beebe cousins circa 1950. We are on the steps in front of the residence of Dr. Richard Clarence Beebe and Mrs. Edna Thompson Beebe at 432 Savannah Rd. Lewes Delaware. In the photo: Estella Beebe Frazer, Alan W. Roth, Pene Moore (Gilmore), Raymond Edward Moore III, and Richard Andrew Frazer.

October 16 at 2:10 PM





Tribute Wall

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Edilu Moore Nehrbas posted:

Pete and I are so sorry for the loss of sweet Alan. I will never forget the times of our summers, growing up on Lewes Beach, that were made special, with the yearly (most anticipated), visits from the Roth family, and our cousins! Everything stopped in our normal routine and the times with them turned into one big PARTY! I especially remember a time when Alan and Pene and I made a trip to Frontier Town, when we were behind an Army Supply truck that was inadvertently dropping loaves of Raisin Bread along the highway. We were so hysterical about the scene that Pene could hardly drive, but we were rewarded when we stopped to pick up a loaf or two. Of course, we put a real dent in a loaf, as we finished our trip. We have so many wonderful memories of those visits from our Michigan cousins and cousin Alan. I can still hear him saying,, with his arm around me and that quirky smile, "How's my favorite cousin?" Love you sweet Alan...Rest In Peace...(my 'favorite cousin').

October 16 at 6:10 AM



Mike Peterson posted:

Fortunate to meet all and work with him. Discovered we had a mutual love for all things outdoors. We had many discussions about hunting and especially about chasing through the woods in pursuit of the Ruffed Grouse. Al introduced me and others to the Ruffed Grouse Society banquet. Tonight I will sip an aged Scotch in a Ruffed Grouse glass and remember my friend Al Roth. Peace and prayers to the family of Alan Roth as you go through this difficult time.

October 16 at 5:57 AM



Richard Frazer shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.



Here is a favorite memory from 1970. Our son Rick was born in May, and the three of us (Patricia Bishop Frazer, Richard Andrew Frazer, and Richard Alan Frazer) travelled from our home in King George, Virginia for our annual week-long summer vacation at my parents beach cottage, 702 Cedar St. Lewes, Delaware. An important part of every week in Lewes was to visit my relatives. Our 1970 visit coincided with the time that Alan Roth was in Lewes. When we went to visit Grandma Beebe (Estella Beebe was my mother) Alan was there too, and Pat took this photograph. In the photo are Richard, Alan, Richard Alan, and Great Grandma Beebe. If you look closely you can see what is in Alan's left hand. Just as Pat was about to hit the shutter, Baby Rick dropped his pacifier on the floor. Alan leaped forward, scooped up the pacifier, and hopped back into place.

October 15 at 5:18 PM



Tribute Wall

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AF

Amy Arnold Felker posted:

Alan was such a dear person A favorite memory of mine was when he and my son went to the Zwaanendael museum and Alan showed Blair different styles of ship knots

October 15 at 1:19 PM



Anonymous sent a Joyful Memory to the Roth family.



October 15 at 7:24 AM

WD

Walter R Dodson posted:

It is a rare man who leaves such an indelible impression on everyone he encounters. Alan was such a person. How many people can tell that a group of crows is a murder or a gathering of grouse is a covey. Alan, of course, was especially partial to ruffed grouse (even though Sandy teased him with "ruffled" grouse). Without his telling we would not have known that it takes two woodcocks and a grouse to make a proper pie. We hope the hunting and storytelling are appreciated as much where he is now as they were in this world. Gotta wonder if his head is as shiny there. We dearly loved Alan Roth! Randy and Sandy Dodson

October 15 at 6:34 AM

AP

Anne Palmer posted:

Alan was such a beautiful soul. He brought his love, joy, and kindness to the life of my sister who was so long deserving of this. What greater gift can one human being give to another? I am honored to have borne witness.

October 15 at 4:28 AM

JR

John Roach posted:

Alan helped at Delaware Tech develop the Surveying and Geomatics curriculum at the Owen's Campus. He was very helpful and dedicated. John Roach

October 14 at 4:40 PM



Tribute Wall

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Bridget Anne Warner posted:

Ellen, Thinking of you. Alan was kind, colorful, and entertaining, He had a great sense of humor and a zest for people and life. You are in our thoughts. Bill and Bridget

October 14 at 3:56 PM



Media

Alan W. Roth

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Ron shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 24 at 4:21 AM





Media

Alan W. Roth

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Miriam Pomilio shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 21 at 5:40 AM



Alan helping at GIS Day



Richard Frazer shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 16 at 2:15 PM



Roth Family



Richard Frazer shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 16 at 2:10 PM



Beebe Cousins



Richard Frazer shared a photo to the **Tribute Wall** album.

October 15 at 5:18 PM



Richard, Alan, Richard Alan and Great Grandma Beebe



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Alan by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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