

Alexander "Al" E. Ross

December 21, 1928 - February 11, 2018

How does one capsulize, in words, a giant of a man? Not only in stature necessarily, but in beneficence and faith. Alexander came into the world December 21, 1928, in Boston, Massachusetts, more specifically the Roxbury section. He loved and was proud that he was reared in a melting pot of poverty and brotherhood. The names of his friends read like a manifest of immigrants to the new world. Always the diplomat, every nationality was represented, enabling him to assemble sports teams that sounded like a mini United Nations.

Al was the first-born child of Alexander Angus, and Elizabeth Catherine Wilmouth. He was especially close to his paternal Grandmother, and his maternal Grandfather. From the early age of 6, he began his much-loved role as "helper." He attended the Timulty and also Dudley Grammar School where he was a regular on the High Honor Role. He finished primary school at Boston Latin and later attended Boston Trade High School.

After High School he worked for several years as a mechanic and truck driver. He then decided to pursue academia and attended Boston's Teacher College for 2 years, until he was drafted into the Army. He served as Cadre in the 10th Mountain Division at Camp Hale, Colorado. After an honorable discharge he returned to college to finish his Bachelor of Science in Education from Hofstra University. Drawn by the promise of higher teacher salaries, he and a friend,

Bunky McCarthy, left Boston and headed to Nassau County, New York. They were both hired by Levittown Memorial High School as Shop Teachers. Two years later, with the opening of a new school, he transferred to Jonas B. Salk Junior High School. This is where he would meet the love of his life, Cynthia Jane Straub. After a fairytale love affair, they were married August 22, 1959, in Brookfield, Connecticut. Their married life began in Northport, NY, and later they purchased their first home in Freeport, NY. After several years of marriage, they welcomed their first child, Alecyn Elizabeth, in 1967, followed by Regina Frances, in 1969. He found the role of Father the most rewarding and he was great at it.

After establishing his career as a shop teacher, he completed his Master's Degree in Administration at C.W. Post, and transferred to Uniondale High School where he began to ascend the ranks of administration. First, as a guidance counselor, then Vice Principal, and finally the position of Principal to over 3,600 students during the tumultuous 1970's. In this extremely challenging, rewarding, often heartbreaking and difficult position he found his niche.

Through their involvement in Marriage Encounter, 47 years ago, he met and maintained many life long and “deep” friendships. His charitable contributions to parish and community were monumental and his work with St. Andrew the Apostle Catholic Church in Apex included AIDS Ministry, Prison Ministry, Disciples in Mission, Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network (aka Family Promise), as well as grounds keeping. There were also many years more years of mentoring and volunteer service that included Kiwanis, Wake County Guardian Ad Litem, Jimmy V Celebrity Golf Tournament, and the Ironman Triathlon in Kona, Hawaii. His favorite charities included Covenant House, Unbound and Wake SPCA.

He is well known for his phenomenal sense of humor and his legendary walk

on the Appalachian trail. He was predeceased by his parents, his brother Joseph Robert, his Sister Lillian Catherine, daughter Alecyn Elizabeth, son Andrew Joseph. He is survived by his wife Cynthia Jane, his daughter Regina Frances, and her Fiance, Scott David Goodsite, his brother Stephen Hugh and his wife Jacqueline, his sister in law Pamela Mary and her husband Rafael Vidal, and brother in law Willard and his wife Jean, and many beloved nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. He is a man who will be greatly missed.

Godspeed Al!

A funeral mass will be held 11:00 am Saturday, February 17, 2018, at St. Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church, 3008 Old Raleigh Rd, Apex, NC 27502, with a luncheon to follow in the fellowship hall.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

FEB 17. 11:00 AM (ET)

St Andrew The Apostle Catholic Church
3008 Old Raleigh Rd
Apex, NC 27502

Tribute Wall



“ *Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Alexander "Al" E. Ross.*



August 23, 2018 at 01:15 PM



“ *We will remember Al and you Cynthia in our prayers. As a 2nd or 3rd cousin to Al, it was always good to see you both when we visited Raleigh. He could be a twin to my brother Charlie in looks (he passed away 2 yrs. ago in Franklin, MA) I see Al made his family proud with all his accomplishments; many Ross's did. Al was a very humble man and certainly extended himself to many others to make the world a better place. With our continued prayers for Al's soul and for you Cynthia and Regina for the days ahead. God's blessings to you both. Mary E.(ROSS) and Karl Pietkiewicz--NY*

Mart (Ross) Pietkiewicz - February 18, 2018 at 09:54 PM



“ *Words could never be enough... I love you pop and I will miss you every day*



Adammeeker - February 16, 2018 at 02:01 PM



Oh Adam! Thank you for sharing this. He loved you so much!

Cynthia Ross - February 16, 2018 at 02:22 PM

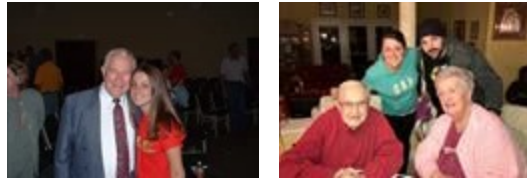


Adam will you please post the lyrics to Big Homie. Al would appreciate it so much. He was so honored to know you, you and Brandy are a valued members of our family.

Regina Ross - February 16, 2018 at 06:26 PM

BR

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Brandi - February 16, 2018 at 01:40 PM

BR

“ *Words cannot even describe how great of a man Al Ross was! He was a GAL for my brother and I and his involvement didn't stop at that. He continued to cheer me on and celebrate in my accomplishments long after being my GAL. He will truly be missed by many, but I am happy in knowing that heaven has gained a wonderful soul! - Brandi*

Brandi - February 16, 2018 at 01:14 PM



Thank you Brandi! He was so proud of your accomplishments.

Cynthia Ross - February 16, 2018 at 02:24 PM

JR

“ Al, you welcomed me into the family from the minute we met. I always loved getting the first words in when calling you and before you and Stephen started chatting. That chat could go on and on, with both of you saying "I love you, Bro" at the end. I'm so happy you guys talked that morning. Among the very best of men in this world, I was lucky and blessed to know you.



*God Speed
Jackie Ross*

Jacqueline Ross - February 16, 2018 at 07:37 AM

SR

“ I was proud to be his brother and will sorely miss talking to my big brother. Give my love to the rest of the family. Skip



Stephen Ross - February 16, 2018 at 07:33 AM

JB

“ What a TRUE disciple of Christ, a wonderful father, husband and friend who touched so many .So many fond Freeport memories that lived on well after He moved. A man who made a difference in so many lives and in this world . So many people are better because you touched their life in some way . You will never you be forgotten. Rest easy with your Allecyn and all our Freeport friends who were there with open arms, no doubt, to welcome you to heaven . God bless you friend.

Jean B. - February 15, 2018 at 11:50 PM

RV

“ Rafael Vidal lit a candle in memory of Alexander "Al" E. Ross



rafael vidal - February 15, 2018 at 08:50 AM

RV

How sad that I can't be at your memorial service and Put my arms around Cynthia and Regina. We lost you but only briefly until we are all together again with Alecyn, Andrew, Frances, Alfred, my Papa', my Mama', Bebop, Elli and Bailey to celebrate our eternal reunion with you will in heaven. Alejandro, God has blessed you from the day you were born because you are a " GIVER "! A loving husband, father, brother, son, uncle and friend. A true CHRISTIAN! I will miss your wonderful sense of humor Alejandro. I will not say goodbye but hasta luego till we meet again! ALOHA HOY, Rafael

rafael vidal - February 15, 2018 at 09:11 AM

FC

“ Uncle Owl, I know we didn't have as many year's together as everyone else but the closeness I felt with you seemed like I knew you for 100 year's!! I I know it will be a while before I get to see you again but I'll always have the memory of what you said to me at your 79th Birthday dinner, I can still hear your word's & they mean so much to me. Thank you Uncle Owl!! Give Allie a big hug & kiss from me I love You & miss you so much



Faith Cummins - February 14, 2018 at 07:14 PM

CC

“ Uncle Al was much more than just my Uncle, he was my God Father. He also took the place of my father & was an incredible father figure throughout my life. His advice & wisdom helped me through many times in my life.



He was always out in the yard playing with us kid's in Massapequa & took Allie, Regina & I to the big indoor swimming pool's in Freeport. He brought laugh's to all our family gatherings & led many of our Thanksgiving dinner prayers. He is greatly missed & will always be remembered💙

Christine Cummins - February 14, 2018 at 06:40 PM

JC

“ It is difficult to put into words what the passing of Al means to my family and me. He was truly the most honorable and caring husband, father and friend. I was only seven years old when Al came into the "Fitch family" so he was always more like an uncle to me than a cousin. He was the consummate mentor to all the children fortunate enough to cross his path, never judging but always nurturing. God knew to push him into the educational world where he was able to help so many students. Then after retirement he chose to help the poor, AIDS patients and the incarcerated. A true disciple of Christ!

Until we meet again we will hold you Al, forever in our hearts!!!!

Love,
Sam & Jane and your friend Joe!

Jane Cowan - February 14, 2018 at 01:48 PM



💖💖💖 thank you Jane!

Regina Ross - February 14, 2018 at 04:12 PM

CC

“ *Uncle Al was the funniest family member. No matter the occasion he brought a huge smile to everyone's face. He has always been a protector and someone willing to give real advice from the heart. He was never judgmental and loved everyone. The only peace I can find in all this is that he can now rest peacefully with grandma, grandpa and Allie .*



Cara Cummins - February 14, 2018 at 01:06 PM



❤❤❤ *He loved you so much! He never would've made it as long as he had without your devoted love and care!*

Regina Ross - February 14, 2018 at 04:14 PM

CC

Today' was a hard day , I had some of his hot cereal with berries and remember the silly times :(

Cara Cummins - February 14, 2018 at 08:24 PM

CC

“ *Christopher S Cummins purchased the Beautiful i n Blue for the family of Alexander "Al" E. Ross.*



Christopher S Cummins - February 14, 2018 at 10:45 AM

TI

“ *What a great man. I still remember how excited he was when planning his walk on the trail. He was visiting my mom and dad a few weeks before his upcoming event and Betsy and I enjoyed listening to all the prep work he did for his trip and his plans to spend many days and nights in the woods. What a surprise when we heard he thought better to be with his lovely wife and children. He also missed the luxuries of his home. RIP, AL. We will surely miss you. May you have many walks in heaven.*

Tim - February 14, 2018 at 10:40 AM



We had such fun with our West Coast family! Looking through the pictures from his 80th slideshow there were many that included you and Betsy. One of my favorites was of him and I that was taken at Brian and Gisella's wedding. Good times. He's at peace now and our only consolation is that he's in such good company! ❤️❤️❤️

Regina Ross - February 14, 2018 at 04:17 PM



“ *Cynthia and Regina I am so sorry for the loss of your husband and father I will truly miss him as a friend he was a wonderful guy*



Kathryn Grady - February 14, 2018 at 09:31 AM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Alexander "Al" E. Ross.*



February 13, 2018 at 08:24 PM