



Dr. Alan Ross PhD

August 25, 1926 - September 7, 2013

Dr. Alan Ross, PhD, born August 25, 1926 to Professor E.C and Mrs. Madeliene Ross of Oxford, Ohio, died September 7, 2013 at Roland Park Place in Baltimore, Md. Dr. Ross had been a resident of Baltimore since 1964, when he joined the faculty of the Johns Hopkins University School of Hygiene and Public Health (now known as the Bloomberg School of Public Health). He had been wheelchair bound since suffering a stroke in 1996.

Alan was raised in Oxford, Ohio, where his father was a professor of Literature at Miami University, and in Hamilton, Ohio, where much of his extended family resided. A brilliant student, he earned several State mathematics awards. He volunteered for service in WWII in September 1944, and enlisted with the 42d Infantry Division (Rainbow) at Atterbury, Indiana. He deployed to Europe in January 1945, and was present at Dachau shortly after its liberation. He later served in Vienna as a military policeman after hostiles ended (where he was able to indulge his life-long passion for the opera) until his unit was demobilized in June 1946.

After receiving his discharge, Alan enrolled at Brown University, from which he graduated cum laude and Phi Beta Kappa in 1950. He earned his masters in statistics from Iowa State University in 1952. While working on his PhD (Iowa State 1960), he worked as a research associate at Iowa State from 1952 to 1954, and at University of Pittsburgh from 1954 to-1956. He served as

Assistant Professor of Medical Statistics at University of Kentucky Medical Center from 1956 to 1961, and Associate Professor until 1964.

Dr. Ross joined the faculty at Johns Hopkins University in 1964 as an Associate Professor of Biostatistics in the School of Hygiene and Public Health. By 1966, he was the Acting Chairman of the Department of Biostatistics, and Chairman of the Department from 1967-1981. In addition to these duties, he was a Professor of Statistics for the University from 1966, Associate Professor of Public Health Administration from 1965 through 1967, Professor in the Department of Medical Care & Hospitals (1967-1972), and Professor of Biostatistics from 1967 until taking emeritus status 1990, which he held until his passing. Finally, Dr. Ross was a visiting professor in Biostatistics at Yale (1965, 1966), University of Pittsburgh (1968), University of Washington (1970) and University of California, Berkeley (1972), as well as a number of sabbatical assignments around the world. He was a Fellow of the American Statistical Association, and Member of the Biometric Society and the Institute of Mathematical Studies. His Honors Societies memberships included Phi Beta Kappa, Sigma Xi, and Delta Omega.

Dr. Ross' research interests were in survey sampling with a specialty focus on model-based methods of sampling. Over his long career, he served as chief biostatistical consultant to the Federal Aviation Administration, Office of Aviation Medicine, advised the WHO International Collaborative Study of Medical Care Utilization, designed and analyzed population surveys from around the world, including the national census of Afghanistan for the USAID Project (1971-1975), and a multitude of other projects concerning health care issues such as immunization utilization, efficacy of narcotic drug treatments, mental health issues among the chronically homeless, and Member of the WHO Task Force on Methods of Assessment of Avoidable Blindness. Despite his extensive professional engagements, Alan managed to maintain a life-long passion for opera, symphony and jazz music. During family reunions

in Hamilton, he sang barbershop harmonies with his cousins, with whom he remained close throughout his life. He was an avid bird watcher, an activity he shared with his wife Barbara, during their extensive travels in the U.S. and abroad.

Alan met Barbara Mink of Hastings-on-Hudson, New York when they attended Brown University. They were married in September, 1950, shortly after their graduation, and remained together for 58 years until Barbara's death in December 2008. He is survived by his three children, Thomas Ross of Silver Springs, Md., Catharine (and her husband Mark) Norcross of Redding, Ca., and James Ross (and his wife Sarah Johnson) of Nyack, N.J., daughter-in-law Lynda Joslyn of Silver Springs, four grandchildren (Meghan and Eric Norcross, and Delphine and Ramona Ross), eight nieces and nephews, and eleven great-nieces and nephews.

At his request, Alan will be cremated. A memorial service will be planned for later this fall.