



Alexander Buchanan Stewart

Alexander Stewart passed away peacefully on June 18, 2012, at the age of 74 years, after a lengthy illness. Alex was of the renowned law class of '62. He was predeceased by his parents and his only son, Alexander. His wife Frances and his daughters, Caroline and Catherine (Missy), his first wife Susan, and his extended family survive him. Frances is the

daughter of the late Dr. Charles Bourne.

Alex graduated from UBC in commerce and law and, upon completing his articles with Meredith & Co. in May 1963, began his first partnership with the writer. When he saw that law practices were slow to get going in the early '60s, he joined the legal department of B.C. Hydro. He later founded the partnership of LaCroix Stewart Siddall & Saunders and finally the firm of Stewart Aulinger & Co. Alex was a great mentor to the many students who passed through the firms, even though he did not appear in court as a barrister. He once had an unsettling experience in chambers (as we all had as articulated students—that was what articling was all about). That discouraged him from doing any more counsel work.

Alex proved to be a shrewd businessman and an extraordinary entrepreneur. He thought outside the box and was always on the move, looking for new opportunities, which provided him with many adventures, interesting business partners and colourful stories. He believed in cementing his deals with an old-fashioned handshake, and conducted his business with integrity and honour. Alex led an enviable and full life. He was extremely athletic and loved playing tennis. He enjoyed cruising the world with Frances.

Alex retired from his law practice at Stewart Aulinger & Co. but continued to work from his home office. He spent his days investing in the market, managing his real estate and chasing "the deals". His dwindling eyesight slowed him down, but his big dreams kept him charging ahead. He hired an assistant to help with day-to-day activities and to drive him to meetings. Alex was a man of quiet authority: intellectually brilliant, but modest about his abilities. He was known for his generosity, his mentoring and his magnetic personality. He had time for friends and was available anytime to provide sage advice or a good laugh. A character and an original, he will be missed by many.

Alex was an accomplished pilot and loved the freedom that owning a small Cessna 172 and a Bonanza aeroplane afforded him. We took many flights in

the 172 but on one occasion he, his mechanic and I took the Bonanza out for a test run, and after climbing vertically to about 10,000 feet the engine quit and we tumbled back toward earth. Then he quietly restarted the engine and levelled off at about 3,000 feet (to the considerable relief of his passengers).

After losing his sight in one eye and experiencing split vision in the other he replaced piloting with power walking, lifting light weights and even Tai Chi. He is now on a very special spiritual adventure and flight into a place not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Donald W. H. Yerxa

