

## **Eulogy for Rabbi Aaron Landes (z"l) by Rebecca Landes Kolman**

Abba,

To so many, you were a wonderful and respected Rabbi and also an exemplary Rear Admiral in the United States Navy, but to us, your children, you were our beloved Abba.

It was, and is, a privilege to be your children. You were always so loving and supportive, so full of good insight and advice. You always told us how much you loved us and how proud you were of us. And you told your daughters that we were beautiful and, if we weren't feeling so beautiful that day, then that day we were pretty.

When we were young you read us bedtime stories. You taught us to ride bikes and we would ride together in Alverthorpe Park. In the summers, we would ride together as a family on the long flat streets of Long Beach Island and you taught us the hand signals for turning left and right.

You also taught us each to swim in the bay on Long Beach Island. When we had learned to swim to your satisfaction, you took us each to Marvel's Sweet Shop in Beach Haven to pick out a present.

You, yourself, were an excellent swimmer. I used to love to watch you swim so rhythmically. You were at one with the water.

You had different length walks and routes depending on your schedule; the 20 minute walk, the 30 minute walk, the 40 minute walk. We would often accompany you and talk about what was happening in our lives. If we were having an issue, you would help us analyze the issue and give us sound advice.

When you felt that you hadn't spent enough time with us because of all of your commitments to the synagogue and to the community, you would take us out for ice cream, but we never felt neglected. Our beloved mother was always there holding down the fort as well as being an active *Rebbetzin*. All of these years she has been by your side. She was your partner in all that you did. Jewish education was so important to both of you and, together with Bill Forman and others, you helped found the Forman Hebrew Day School, now the Perelman Jewish Day School, and your beloved wife Sora was the principal.

As busy as you were, you always had time for us. If we visited you at the synagogue, your face would light up when you saw us. You would interrupt whatever meeting you were having to embrace us and introduce us proudly to whomever was present. We always felt that we were the most important people in your life. You made everyone feel that way.

We have all lovingly teased you about your liberal use of the word "remarkable" with your Boston accent. You were remarkable; a remarkable husband, father, grandfather, son, brother, uncle, cousin, rabbi, admiral and friend. You were a shining example for all of us on how to conduct ourselves and how to treat others.

Even at the end of your life you taught us how to age with acceptance and dignity. You had no regrets. You told us how you felt blessed by the Almighty with your wife, children, grandchildren and with your professional life.

Through it all, your love for us was paramount. Your legacy lives on in your children, grandchildren and all of the lives that you have touched so meaningfully.

God bless you always, our beloved Abba.