



HERMAN OLAFUR THORVALDSON

BORN: JUN 15, 1934

DATE OF PASSING: APR 15, 2023

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June 15, 1934 - April 15, 2023

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of our dear father, Herman on April 15, 2023.

Over the last few months, he had been in the hospital with challenging health issues - and true to his strong, Icelandic resilient nature - fought very hard to overcome them. In the end, we believe he was at peace knowing that it was time for him to stand down from the fight. He passed away peacefully in his sleep just before midnight.

Lovingly remembered by daughters, Jocelyn (Greg) Dunstan and Karen Banfield; granddaughters, Alexandra and Mackenzie Banfield; brother Albert (Anne) Thorvaldson; sisters, Evelyn Allen and Margaret Holman; stepson Jared (Brooke) Longstaffe and children, Jessica and Hunter - along with many cherished nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Predeceased by his parents, Lilja and Thorvaldur (Valdi); wife Rose Thorvaldson; beloved son Jason Thorvaldson; brothers, Thor, Lawrence and Ross Thorvaldson and ex-wife, business partner and friend Julia Thorvaldson.

Born in Riverton, MB to parents of Icelandic descent, our father and his family eventually moved to Winnipeg where he completed his high school education at Kelvin High School. He started working for Famous Players movie theatres at the age of 17 as an usher at both the Osborne and Capitol theatres. Management soon discovered he had the aptitude to learn the financial books and by doing so, he was transferred to their theatre in Brandon, MB. At the age of 19, Famous Players considered him to be the youngest theatre manager in Western Canada. In his lengthy theatre career (1951 to 1980), he was the manager of the newly opened Polo Park cinema, Gaiety, Colony and Capitol theatres.

His artistic creativity enabled him to learn to manually design the theatre advertisements for the newspapers when the advertising manager was on vacation during the summers. He and our mother, Julia won several awards for designing special displays for movies - the most cherished one being from Walt Disney for the movie 'Fantasia'. During that time for a few years while on a break from Famous Players, he became a programmer and eventually the office manager at National Cash Register.

His life took on a new direction in 1959, when at the age of 25 years, he and his parents went into partnership together and founded the 'Thorvaldson Nursing Homes'. A privately owned heavy care nursing home with 30 residents. That same year, he became a founding member of the Nursing Home Association of Manitoba (now called Long Term & Continuing Care Association of Manitoba) holding the position of chairman from 1962 to 1978. In 1977, he was also a founding member of the Canadian Long Term Care Association.

In the late 1970s, the decision was made to sell the nursing home and move the business to Stradbrook Avenue where we converted to a facility that catered to those elderly who required a lower level of care as compared to a nursing home. In the mid-1990s, the older original homes on the property were torn down and replaced by our existing Thorvaldson Care Centre. Our father was instrumental in the design of our new building and helped to oversee the construction. He, along with our mother Julia as administrator, were deeply devoted and committed to caring for the elderly at a particularly vulnerable stage of their lives.

His dream and vision was to offer a new and unique model of 'Intermediate' care for the elderly in a non-institutional, home-like environment to enable them to enjoy a high quality of life in the community for as long as possible. We estimate that over the course of the last 64 years of caring for the elderly - our family has offered a safe haven for thousands of residents, along with peace of mind for their many family members

For many decades, our father had been pro-active in advocating for the elderly in our province by strongly encouraging the government to formally recognize the great necessity and demand for this unique Intermediate model of care. While we continue to remain hopeful, it was most unfortunate that after his many years of service, advocacy and devotion, he was not able to see his decades long vision of being formally recognized come to fruition.

Our father was a gentle soul with a kind and generous heart. Forever young at heart, he will fondly be remembered for his charming nature, quick wit and sense of humour. He cared deeply for his family, and so many wonderful times and joyful memories were shared together with him. He was larger than life, and it felt like the room shone brighter when he was there. Over the years, when things became challenging, our father's strong determination, direction and work ethic, always managed to pull us through. Failure or giving up was just not an option for him. His enduring strength and resilience was instilled in us, his children, from a very young age.

He warmly touched many lives during the course of his life. Not only are we very proud to have had him as our father and our friend, but feel it was an absolute gift and privilege to work alongside him for so many years. We will continue to carry on his wonderful legacy with grace and pride.

A heartfelt thank you to the thoughtful and caring staff at our Care Centre for your love and support to our father and family during this challenging time. As well, to the staff at the Health Sciences Centre (GH4) for your assistance and kindness over these past few months.

Rest easy in gentle peace, dearest dad. After so many years of caring for others, this final peaceful journey is very well deserved. You are so loved and will be very greatly missed.

A Celebration of Life will be held on Wednesday May 10, 2023, at 6:30 p.m. at Neil Bardal Funeral Centre - 3030 Notre Dame Ave. For those wishing to watch the livestream webcast of the service, please see the details on our father's memorial page at

www.neilbardalfuneralhome.com