



Zaven Mahdesian

June 24, 1914 - February 5, 2010

Born in Troy, NY, the son of immigrants who worked in the shirt factories (Makroohi, mother; Misak, father), he was raised in the small Armenian neighborhood where he didn't learn English until age 4. During the Depression he delivered groceries to attend Albany State, where names ending in ?ian were rare, earning both his BA and MA there. He later commuted from Troy to NYU where he was awarded his PhD. His first teaching position was high school math at Greenport High School where he met and married English teacher Mabelle Schuler. They relocated to Great Neck where again he taught high school math until he left to work for the Army during WWII. He was an expert on the breach mechanism of the 155 Howitzer, solving problems in arsenals in Watervliet NY and San Francisco CA. After the war he returned to Troy to teach high school math, later becoming principal of schools 1 and 14. In 1954 he became the first principal of Carle Place High School and in 1957 the first superintendent of Half Hollow Hills where he led the district during the growth years. Retiring from public education, he became a professor at St. Johns University and later Dean of Summer Sessions. His last teaching position was high school math at St. Anthony's, fifty years after he began his educational career. Along the way, he opened Travel Fair travel agency, traveling extensively throughout the civilized world with Mabelle. He was a dedicated Mason for 70 years, serving as master of Apollo Lodge in Troy and Jephtha lodge in Huntington. He organized and was charter president of Half Hollow Hills Rotary Club. He was

also an active and dedicated member of Old First Presbyterian Church in Huntington. After a wonderfully full and productive life, he now joins Mabelle and Janet in eternal rest.

Devoted husband of the late Mabelle Schuler Mahdesian for sixty-eight years, loving father of Raymond C. (Deanna) and the late Janet E. (Robert Lopez). Adoring grandfather of Nora (Aamar Shazad) and Bryan Mahdesian. Predeceased by his Brother George; Brother-in-law of Marry Ann Mahdesian; Uncle of Michael (Beth), Susan Vanderlin, Steven, Great uncle of Sarah Nannini (Jay), Kyle, Todd and Davis Vanderlin. Other relatives include Anahid Berberian (Greg), Marjorie Massey (John), Laura Balekdjian (Richard) and younger generations.

Tribute Wall



“ *Zaven Mahdesian*

November 27, 2022 at 05:33 PM



“ *Our deepest sympathy in the loss of such a good man. I knew him more on a personal basis through my friendship with Ray, and he was always so kind and caring to me. God rest his soul and God bless each and every family member.*

Mr. and Mrs. Donald W. Leo - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *DR. Mahdesian was an inspiration to me when his son, Ray would invite me to dine at their home with his family. That brief association during my formative years, gave me an awareness of his many achievements. Since that 'long-ago' association, I found myself traveling down some of those same roads of life. I am one of the many who's life has become a bit sadder with Dr. Mahdesian's passing. My total condolence to my personal friend, Ray and the other family members.*

Richard McGregor - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM



“ *A self-made man who created a bountiful family of children and grandchildren, and infused a family of new minds, generations of students. My Heartfelt Condolences to the Mahdesian Family, Avrum H. Golub*

Avrum H. Golub - February 09, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RI

“ Zaven's dedication to the lodge was an inspiration to all freemasons who had the privilege to know him.

Randy Ivans - February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Bro.Mahdesian,Although I knew you for only a couple years, too short a time, your impact upon our Lodge, our community, and me will be forever remembered. Thank you, and Godspeed, Brother.
Bro.Andrew Calderaro

Bro.Andrew Calderaro - February 07, 2010 at 12:00 AM