



Alan R. Brown, Sr.

April 23, 1923 - May 2, 2009

ALAN R. BROWN, SR. HAMILTON LAKES - Alan R. Brown, Sr., 86, of Hamilton Lakes, died Saturday, May 2, 2009 at the VA Medical Center in Iron Mountain. He was born on April 23, 1923 in Chicago, Illinois, the son of the late George and Sophie (Dudek) Brown. He studied the accordion during his youth from Andy Rizzo and many other teachers. After high school, he joined the Army and was stationed in Moroati, a small island in the South Pacific, during World War II. He was a radar repair specialist but mostly entertained the troops with his accordion. At one point, he played for Ginger Rogers; she told him to come to see her after the war. However, Alan had other plans and went back to Chicago where he attended Wright's Junior College and the Chicago Musical College, where he learned to play and teach other instruments. Alan became a music teacher at Wurlitzer's in Chicago where he met June Sanford, and it was there that the whirlwind relationship began. They were married at the Methodist Cathedral on November 5, 1948 in downtown Chicago and shortly after, moved to Vulcan where they have lived for 60 years. Alan was a jazz musician, and a private music teacher to many. He was a member of the Norway Lodge #362, Free and Accepted Masons, Floriano-Stecker Post #340, American Legion, and the Faithorn United Methodist Church. He also volunteered for the Golden K, the VA Medical facility, and was the organist and choir director at the Grace United Methodist Church for over 20 years. Alan is survived by his wife Helen June as he always referred to her, a daughter Bernadette Brown, son Alan Jr., and

daughter Georgia Corsi, who all reside on "Brownsville Road" Hamilton Lakes, son Drew Brown and daughter-in-law Karen who reside in Commerce Township, Michigan. His music has stopped, but it lives on through his grandchildren, Nathan Emerson musician, and songwriter; Sarah Corsi American's number 1 country fan; Bethany dancer and owner of Hudson Dance Academy in Hoboken, New Jersey, her husband George; Taylor Brown, vocalist and musician; and Alana Brown, vocalist and pianist. He leaves his sister-in-law Diane Malone, his niece Kim Honcik and her children Kayla and Kyle along with his extended family, the LaPines, the Rostagnos, and the Sanfords and many dear friends. Alan was preceded in death by his parents, his in-laws Bernard and Sarah Sanford, sister-in-law Donna Sanford, sister Geraldine Ramah, son-in-law Ted Corsi, Sr., and nephew Bob Honcik. Alan loved teaching music and he loved his students. The family hopes his music lives on through them. A memorial and celebration of his life will be held Sunday, May 24, at 4:00 p.m. at their home, N1307 Hamilton Lakes Road. We hope his family, friends, student, and those who loved him and his music will attend.

Tribute Wall

LK

“ *Hi June and Family
I was schocked when I read about Alan. He was the gentlest person I ever knew. I still remember when Alan Jr. was born he called Vulcan High School, and I came after schoo to babysit. I did a lot of babysitting for you and Alan. I swear to this day you make the best spaghetti sauce ever. My prayers and thoughts are with you. Love
Lucy Krajna*

Lucille Geline Krajna - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RF

“ *Dear Brown Family, You are all in our prayers. Alan will be greatly missed and always remembered. I'll always here his jolly greeting and rockin' piano sounds in our house. He brought joy and strength wherever he went. We loved him too! Prayers for all of you. Love,
the Filas*

Rick, Cherie, Kelsey and Justin Fila - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MZ

“ *Our deepest condolences to June and her entire family on the loss of a wonderful man. The entire community and area has been enriched and is a better place because of Alan and his contributions as a teacher of music, performer, husband, father, and friend to so many. We hope that you all find peace in this most difficult time. On a more personal note, I hope that Alan saves me a seat at his bridge table in heaven.*

Michael and Joan Zevitz - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ We have lost a wonderful man. My mom just loved when Al played and put some energy into the church service...As a choir member we enjoyed so much his playing for us..if he did not have the music, he would wing it and we did fine..May God Bless All of You and bring you strength and Peace at this time. nan and roy

Roy and Nancy Chellew - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ I will always have fond memories of my piano lessons with Al. I would always badger him to play for me during my lesson because I was so impressed by his abilities. He was an inspiration to me and helped further my own musical abilities (as well as my brothers). He will be sadly missed.

Donna (Thomas) Sundstrom - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ I took piano lessons from "Mr. Brown" for 12 years. When I reached those awkward teenage years, I didn't think piano lessons were very "cool" so he gave me guitar lessons. One day he told my mother that I already knew everything that he could teach me on the guitar. He'd play the piano while I'd play the guitar. Blues. He was so excited and encouraging when I could play in whatever key he'd want! He'd try to trick me and say, "Let's do this one in the key of Ab." I'd say, "G#? Ok." He'd give that jolly old laugh and we'd jam. Mr. Brown was a great man and musician and still is a big influence in my life. He taught me so much about music. To this day I wish I'd never quit those piano lessons 20 years ago! God bless you, Mr. Brown. Wherever you are. Thank you, thank you, thank you for all the knowledge and teaching. My deepest condolences go to his family and friends.

Ryan Johnson - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CB

“ I was so sorry to hear of the passing of Alan. I will always remember his passion and love of music, and the service he gave to Grace United Methodist Church. My thoughts and prayers are with your family at this difficult time.

Carol (LaFreniere) Brown - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

LG

“ Dear Bernadette and Family, So sorry to hear of the passing of your loved one. May the good Lord watch over you during this sad time. God bless and take care. Lar

Larry Gardepy - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM

SN

“ WE ARE HEARTBROKEN THAT THIS EARTH HAS LOST SUCH A WONDERFUL MUSICIAN, TEACHER, AND FRIEND. HIS LOVE AND PASSION FOR MUSIC WAS SO EVIDENT IN HIS LIFE, STORIES, AND THE WAY HE TAUGHT HIS STUDENTS. WE ARE VERY BLESSED THAT HE TAUGHT BOTH JOHN AND JESSICA FOR QUITE A FEW YEARS. THEY BOTH HAVE GONE ON TO EXCEL IN THEIR HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BANDS (LARGELY DUE TO THE INFLUENCE HE HAD ON THEM DURING THEIR PIANO LESSONS). HIS MEMORY WILL LIVE ON AS HIS LESSONS ARE PASSED FROM ONE GENERATION TO THE NEXT. THANK YOU MR. BROWN. I'M SURE YU HAVE THOSE ANGELS "HOPPIN" AND LAUGHING ALREADY.

SONYA, DARYL, JOHN, AND JESSICA NELSON - January 30, 2015 at 12:00 AM