

*Tributes*

Alex generated a good reputation in the riding not based solely on his ties with the Social Credit Party or the PC Party but more as a hard working gentleman who emphasized being involved at the grass roots level in the community.

Alex Patterson was born in 1911 in Raymore, Saskatchewan, a prairie boy like myself, and moved to Abbotsford in 1951. It was in the early years, while carrying out his responsibilities as a minister of the gospel in the Church of the Nazarene, that he was approached to run in the 1953 federal election. His background and training in the church gave Alex a very clear view of right and wrong. He tried to emphasize these positions in his speeches during his first election campaign and continued to do so as the member of Parliament.

Alex was first elected in 1953 and then defeated in the Diefenbaker sweep of 1958. He was re-elected in 1962 and was defeated in the Liberal victory of 1968. He was then asked to serve under the Progressive Conservative label instead of the Social Credit label and accepted that challenge. He was elected in 1972 and served in this House until 1984 when he announced his retirement and I was nominated to stand as the Progressive Conservative candidate.

It was my privilege to attend, along with my wife, the funeral services held in Abbotsford on April 6 and to express the condolences of my wife and myself to his wife Charlotte, their four children and their spouses and his many grandchildren who were there. They are a credit to Alex and Charlotte's life together. I want them to know that this House appreciates the contribution that Alex made not only to the community of Fraser Valley East in British Columbia but to Canada in his service in this House of Commons.

**Mr. David Kilgour (Edmonton Southeast):** Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Official Opposition it is an honour to pay tribute to our late colleague and friend, Dr. Alexander Bell Patterson.

There are many things that might be said about the former member for Fraser Valley, subsequently Fraser Valley East. Which member of this House, except for the member for Parry Sound, like Alex won fully nine of the eleven elections he contested over more than a 30-year period?

In 1965 Alex was acting national leader of the Social Credit Party. In 1972 he changed parties and was elected again. As a friend, Ewald Rempel, noted the other day: "Regardless of what party he ran for he would have won. He was very popular".

People might dispute why he was so well loved. Having known him between 1979 and 1984 I think his success had much to do with his religious values and deep personal honesty. He saw elected office as a stewardship, an extension of the church ministry. He would never put himself ahead of his constituents. He cared about all of them without favour and without fear. He worked hard for farmers, small business people and all others in the Fraser Valley.

This is not to say that our colleague, while often low key, could not be blunt. Members will perhaps recall what he once said about the Trudeau government: "It has destroyed the confidence of the international community in Canada's economy. It has destroyed the confidence of Canadians". Similarly, he once described the CBC as: "One of the foremost purveyors of anti-social, anti-family, amoral philosophy, contributing to the undermining of the moral fibre of this nation". He was concerned with more important issues than political correctness. Pierre Trudeau campaigned twice during six months in Fraser Valley East before the 1974 election in an effort to beat him but Alex was re-elected.

I must not close without making reference to his beloved family, his wife Charlotte and his four children, Lawrence, Ruth, Goldie and Wayne.

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In summary, Alex was a strong family man who both inspired and instilled traditional values and commitments to one's calling. The early years, when MPs were allowed one train trip for every three-month period, were often difficult but he was committed to doing the best job possible and working for the constituents of the Fraser Valley riding he represented for nearly 24 years.

Columnist Allan Fotheringham said prior to one election: "The Fraser Valley is definitely Patterson country". Community was important to him and he enjoyed the charity work carried out through his long-time association with the Kiwanis Club and the Chamber of Commerce. He was a good man who served full time in the Christian ministry for over 20 years before he was