



Bernard M. Fagelson

February 5, 1913 - February 20, 2013

On Wednesday, February 20, 2013 of Alexandria, VA. Beloved husband of Helen C. Fagelson. Loving father of John Fagelson. Brother of the late Robert Fagelson. Grandfather of Sam Fagelson and Max Fagelson. He grew up on a dairy farm in Northern Virginia and graduated from George Washington University Law School during the Depression. After law school he worked for a New Deal agency in Richmond and became a naval officer when the country entered World War II. He served on the USS Quincy at the invasions of Normandy, Southern France, and Okinawa. After the war he returned to Alexandria and began a law practice that continued for fifty years, specializing in zoning and land use law. He was a consummate gentleman and always known for his integrity, fairness, generosity and an appropriate quote for all occasions. He was active in Democratic politics and was a long time member of the Burke & Herbert Bank board of directors, retiring as a Director Emeritus. Funeral service will be held 10:30am Monday at Agudas Achim Congregation, 2908 Valley Dr. Alexandria, VA 22302. Interment Agudas Achim Cemetery.

Tribute Wall



“ Bernard M. Fagelson

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM



“ I met Bernie in August 1993 regarding a zoning issue at the request of his long time friend, Claudia Johnsen, who also passed away recently. Oh, the stories those two could tell! They knew the history of every tract of land outside Old Town Alexandria, and its progression from farm land to development. On the afternoon of our first meeting, we stood on the sidewalk outside a property on Mt. Vernon Avenue in the blazing sun so Bernie could show me the problem. I had just moved here from the Midwest, had not met many native Virginians and was not accustomed to the heat. While I sweltered, he insisted I stand in the only patch of shade as he explained the zoning situation. Attired in a seersucker suit, a white straw hat, and white shoes, he barely perspired while his manner and speech remained warm and kind. From that meeting on, Bernie became my definition of a Virginia Gentleman. I feel so priveleged to have known him, and to have worked with him many years after that.

March 09, 2013 at 12:00 AM



“ *Bernie was a consummate gentleman and the wisest man on earth- probably the last wise man on earth. His intelligence and character shone bright wherever he stood and whenever he spoke. I remember so well his testimonies before City Council speaking for his clients and speaking for the best interests of Alexandria. His wit, eloquence and memory will be with me forever. I will say a mi shebareach prayer for him. John-God Blessed you with a great father.*

March 01, 2013 at 12:00 AM