



## Alan Beatty

September 14, 2020

J. Alan Beatty was born in 1940 in Delta Colorado to Clara Mabel Kenner Beatty and Jason Leroy Beatty. As the youngest of 3 boys, he spent his happy childhood in Springfield, Colorado. He had many fond memories growing up in a small town where he could run free and knock on everybody's door to say hi. He graduated from Springfield High School in 1958 and, following in the steps of his two older brothers Jim and David, attended Adams State University in Alamosa, CO. He majored in Physics with a minor in math. His love of music began in childhood and continued at university where he played tuba in the marching and concert bands, sang in church choirs, and won awards singing and playing guitar at local clubs and parties. After graduation, Alan moved to Chicago where he worked at the Northwestern University observatory. It was here that he met his future wife, Nancy Van Etten.

Alan had a successful career in optics and glass coating manufacturing where he held leadership roles in several companies including Libbey Owens Ford and Liberty Mirror. What he was most proud of was his family. Together they spent many happy times canoeing and camping in the boundary waters of Quetico, bird watching at Point Pelee National Park in Ontario, road tripping to Colorado to visit family and camping in the mountains. His guitar playing around the campfire was legendary.

Retirement didn't slow Alan down. He stayed active in the community through

a variety of service clubs and volunteer roles. One of his strongest passions was advocating for the vision impaired community. He joined with other community leaders in the area to create the Ensign Skills Center and to promote awareness and support for the blind and vision impaired community through the Lion's Club. He received numerous awards for his dedicated service including the Mayor's award and Human Relations Committee award on behalf of his efforts to improve the lives of those with disabilities. He played in multiple bands until his final days including playing banjo, guitar and electric bass in Dixieland and country western bands as well as solo folk performances at nursing homes, assisted living facilities and senior centers.

Alan never was a stranger and loved meeting new people. He could barely take a bus ride across town without making a new friend. He will be remembered for his enduring optimism and belief that we are all put on earth to help and support each other. He is survived by his son Bob and daughter-in-law Naomi, daughters Sarah, Rachel and Susie, grandchildren Sidney and Liv, as well as nieces, nephews, cousins and many, many friends and colleagues. He is preceded in death by his mother and father, brothers David and Jim and wife Nancy. He is deeply missed. Due to COVID19, a private family memorial service will take place in Springfield CO at a later date. Memorial contributions can be made to the Ensign Skills Center in Fort Collins, CO.

# Tribute Wall



“ *Alan Beatty*

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October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *Alan is the only person I ever knew who never said mean things about people. We met at Adams State College(now university) had been friends since 1959 and stayed in contact always. I never heard him complain about the loss of his vision and or loss of his high powered job as a result of that loss. I believe him to have been a truly good man, full of smiles and silly jokes, and a true optimist- absolutely loved him. Jennifer Reglien*

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**Jennifer Reglien** - October 19, 2020 at 05:58 PM



“ *Alan was a dear friend and schoolmate from the time we first meet in grade school. He had such a heart for serving and will be missed. I look forward to that time when we meet again.*

*Chuck McKinnis*

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**Charles H McKinnis** - October 06, 2020 at 03:27 PM

JP

“ Alan and his guitar and witty singing were a delightful if sporadic presence most of my life. We were in high school together and when his brother married my sister, we became members of an extended family. During all these years, Alan was an amazing communicator. He remembered birthdays and special events and stayed in touch with practically anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. Our family will always miss Uncle Alan but he lives on in the songs we sing and his nephews' guitars.

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**Joyce Baker Phillips** - October 01, 2020 at 01:17 PM

PH

“ Alan was a classmate at Springfield HighSchool & a fellow member of a high school quartet where we build so many special, silly & fun memories. Alan was a very special individual & will be missed by many. I'll always remember that big smile & rolling laugh. RIP my friend.



*Patty (Haddock) Hoff*

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**Patty Hoff** - September 30, 2020 at 04:31 PM



“ So many memories. Love reading the stories posted here and look forward to a time we all can be together to celebrate his life. So many stories.. He was the uncle with the guitar! He taught me my first few chords. He was the uncle who told dirty jokes!! The uncle who let me drive his Porsche 914!!! And he was instrumental in the course of my life on the day he talked me into going to college. I was a senior in high school when he took me to an LA Rams game (circa 1990) and suggested I check out Adams State College in Alamosa Colorado. I had zero interest in college, however, he just made it sound cool. And he suggested it without pressure or expectation. So I went for a visit and really loved that experience. So I applied and spent the next 4 years of my life in southern Colorado. There I discovered a passion for theater and my life turned a new direction dedicating my life to performing arts. I'm sure there were a few other details to direct that course of life, however, Alan was definitely the catalyst to get it all rolling. Thank you Uncle Alan!

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**David Beatty** - September 27, 2020 at 05:47 PM

ML

“ I have truly missed, and will always miss, seeing Alan every Wednesday morning and helping him print out all of his emails. He always had a great story to tell us and sometimes a (not-so-appropriate) joke. :) I am very sorry for your loss. He was a treasure.

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**Melissa Lurkins** - September 24, 2020 at 10:52 AM

CD

“ Alan was a dear friend and a fellow Toastmaster who will be missed. I have many fond memories of his speeches telling us about his learning to fly an airplane when he was a young teenager, his friendship with Walt Disney, his work on developing the teleprompter and reflective glass applications, his laugh out loud jokes about people in nursing homes, and many other interesting topics. I always enjoyed his contagious smile and positive attitude. His belief in the strength of human character and the American spirit are all tributes to who he was and the positive energy he added to the world. In these difficult times we can learn from the beautiful spirit that Alan shared with us. You will never be forgotten Alan.

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**Chris Davies** - September 18, 2020 at 04:44 PM

SE

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



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**Sarah Van Etten** - September 17, 2020 at 07:22 PM

EF

“ Alan was a great speaker and storyteller at Toastmasters. He was always positive and ready to meet new people. He'll be missed.

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**Esther Ferry** - September 17, 2020 at 01:40 PM

DH

“ Not mentioned in the obituary is Alan's membership in Sunrise Toastmasters! He was an enthusiastic supporter and encourager, as well as earning the Advanced Toastmaster level of recognition. He was especially known for encouraging our Chinese speaking members from CSU. He was such a positive force inside and outside of the club.

He often had his guitar or banjo, and brightly colored striped pants. My family saw him play one day at an event, and my young son was interested in his music. A week later, Alan brought me a bright red ukulele to give to my son. That's just one example of his generosity and thoughtfulness.

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**Diana Hutchinson** - September 17, 2020 at 11:44 AM



“ I have so many great memories with Alan! When I was 16 I met Alan through his work with the lions and my mom to create Ensign. I got the chance to work and learn with him over the years. I remember driving him on errands and helping him with various chores. As I grew up, I was fortunate to stay and contact with him and serve as a Lion with him. His spirit of service was contagious and I am so glad I got to know him over the last 20 years. He will be greatly missed in Lions and in our community. Rest In Peace dear Alan.

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**Melody Bettenhausen** - September 16, 2020 at 05:57 PM