

his heart and he made a dedicated chairman of the Committee of Inquiry into Public Libraries which reported to the Commonwealth Parliament in 1976. Unfortunately, the quality of this Committee was not matched by the quality of the Government that appointed it and a great opportunity was squandered. He did much for school libraries in NSW, both in his librarian persona and from his participation as a citizen in Parents and Citizens Association affairs. One of his lay activities was his heavy involvement, spurred by what was happening to government schools in NSW, in Defence of Government Schools [DOGS], to which he hoped to devote more time to in his retirement.

On assuming responsibility, from the end of 1981, for Australian aid programs to South-east Asia university libraries as International Development Program (IDP) Library Consultant, Allan decided that single-handed he could not achieve the library progress that he saw as essential. With expedition he involved interested colleagues in the activity and established the widespread institutional support system that achieved so much for the under-funded tertiary libraries of the region. Allan retained the most difficult country, Indonesia, as his own special concern. Big Al will be well-remembered throughout Indonesia.

Those who worked for Allan and those who worked with him owe him considerable loyalty and had great affection for him. He was a man of strong Christian faith who was indeed a good Christian soldier. For all his high seriousness of purpose he was usually a joy to be with. He could be trying in meetings with his mastery of the frequent interjection which did tend to upset slower thinkers and speakers. How the high councils of Heaven will cope with the rising tide of 'With all due respect...', 'With the utmost respect...' et al, I do not know.

Allan has made a magnificent contribution to librarianship and libraries in Australia. He had outstanding colleagues to work with, such as Harrison Bryan in the university library sector and AACOBs and Margaret Trask in just about everything, and the staff he developed at UNSW. He deserved the best as he sought much and achieved much for his fellow man.

Through all the years of struggle and effort and achievement, Allan was sustained and enriched by Elma, his devoted wife, and his children and grandchildren. He was very proud of them all. We are heavily in their debt. Our thoughts are with them.

Edward Flowers

The University of New South Wales memorial service to celebrate the life of Allan Horton will be held at 4:30pm on 23 April in the Tyree Room, Scientia Building, University of New South Wales. For more information or to RSVP contact Pat Bush, ph 02 9385 2615, or p.bush@unsw.edu.au

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