

Ahmed (Albert) Chehadi



Ahmed Ali Chehadi was born in LaLa Lebanon in 1931 to father Ali Jomha Abou-Chehadi and mother Lila Fayad.

Ahmed's father passed away when he was just 6 years old. By the age of 10 Ahmed was helping his mother to provide for his 2 younger sisters (Annie and Zeher) by working odd jobs in nearby villages.

Ahmed loved school; he was always eager and willing to learn. His teachers loved his enthusiasm to acquire knowledge and rewarded him for his dedication. In 1949, shortly after his mother remarried and came to Canada, his mother sent for him and his sisters.

When Ahmed arrived in Canada he worked his first job at Johnson's Café & Hotel on Jasper Avenue. He worked for \$18 a week, which was good pay back in the days. Because of Ahmed's friendly nature, the patrons at the hotel tipped him generously. "Unaccustomed to "tips" and because of his honesty, Ahmed gave the money to his employer. His employer returned it to him and told him it was his to keep.

About four months after arriving in Canada, Ahmed heard from his cousin Alex Hamilton (Ali Ahmed Abou-Chehadi) about mink ranching in Lac La Biche. So Ahmed headed north to Lac La Biche, along with another early pioneer, Mohammed (Sam) Asiff. He decided this was a wonderful place to settle. He started his mink ranch with 50 mink. He soon accumulated enough money to buy a one room house.

Now Ahmed was ready for marriage, so he took the advice of his mother who had told him of a lovely young lady back home in Lebanon, Rakey Tarrabain.

On December 14, 1956 Ahmed and his lovely bride Rakey were married. By the grace of Allah they were blessed with 10 children, Annie, Lila, Haleme, Zeher, Nedee, Abdallah, Ali, Yousiff, Mariam and Khalid. Ahmed and Rakey's strong faith in Allah and with Allah's guidance they worked hard to instill Muslim values in their children. Today they are the proud grandparents of 22 grandchildren and 12 great grandchildren.

It was with great pleasure that Ahmed took every opportunity to help fundraise for the Muslim Association to help build new mosques in Alberta and to maintain the mosque in Lac La Biche.

He traveled across Alberta and flew as far north as Fort Chipweyan to get donations from his cousin Mahmoud Abou-Chadi and his sons. Along with his fundraising efforts, Ahmed and Rakey also contributed to various local charities.

Ahmed and Rakey are forever grateful to Allah for his many blessings in this great country.

