

Biography

Said Slaim (Sam) Abougoush

Said (Sam) Abougoush was born on May 10th, 1919 in Lala, Lebanon. He was the youngest child born to Mohamed and Ottra Abougoush. His mother passed on at a very young age, leaving behind her precious three sons and husband. As time went by, his father remarried and had four more children, the family unit provided well for the three boys.



At the age of twenty-three Said met his life companion, young Smaya Ahmed Abougoush. They married and had one son, Mohamed Said, (Mickey) and three daughters (Fatima, Selma, and Fay) in Lebanon. Life in his home country, working as a construction contractor, was difficult. Said would eventually make a difficult decision, to leave his young family in Lebanon and venture by himself to a new land, Canada.

He left Beirut in 1953, on a ship, enduring stormy weather for several weeks, to journey to the land of opportunity. Once in Halifax, he took the railway to Edmonton, met by his older brother Ahmed Slaim (Albert) Abougoush, and settled in the city. Once he was established in Edmonton, he worked in the trade he knew well, construction. Said received many compliments for the work he did, and made great accomplishments. However, he needed to find a better way to earn enough money to bring his family over from Lebanon. He made a move to Calgary, where he found employment with the railroad. Finally, in 1958 his family was able to leave Lebanon and join him in Calgary. His two youngest sons, Yousef (Johnny) and Hassen (Sammy) were born there. This was not to be the final destination for Said and his family, and they made a move to Lac La Biche.

In 1965, Said and his family came from the large southern city to Lac La Biche to join his brother and family. Lac La Biche was to become his permanent residence. He opened a business called "Abougoush's Secondhand Store" which supported his family for a number of years. As time went by he closed down the business only to replace it with a furniture store. The businesses were located in the same location where the present "Universal Video" is situated. In 1978, Said retired from the business world and leased the building to another young prospering businessman.

Throughout his time in Canada (due to his friendly disposition) you would never know that Said had experienced many different difficulties and challenges. The challenges included: a

language barrier, leaving his father and siblings in Lebanon, leaving his young family in Lebanon, and having little education and little finances. However, Said persevered and carried on with his life in the best manner he knew, to make the best of whatever Allah gave him.

His children are successful due to the work ethic and accomplishments, made in his short life. These include volunteering in the Lac La Biche Muslim Men's Association, member of the Lac La Biche Chamber of Commerce and volunteering with the Lac La Biche Golf Association. He was a role model for all of six children and ensured that each child had the opportunity of a post secondary education and financial security. Showing them through legacy, experience and leadership how to build a successful business, and most of all he modeled to his children and grandchildren how to be faithful people.

Said Abougoush was taken from his family, unexpectedly in May of 1979. May he eternally rest in peace!