

HALPERN, Abraham Leon (Abe) [UNTD YORK '48 U-31370] (1925 - 2013) Age: 88



Abe Halpern entered University and the UNTD at the age of 23, with WWII service already under his belt. He retired his RCN Service as a LCDR(Surg) and pursued his substantial and award-winning Medical career south of the border, primarily in New York.

Abraham Leon Halpern, M.D. Born 2/2/1925 in Warsaw, Poland.

Died 4/20/2013 as a result of an earlier fall. His family emigrated to Canada in 1927. As a teenager, he joined the Royal Canadian Navy serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters during [WWII](#). After the [Korean War](#), he was honorably discharged at the rank of Lieutenant Surgeon Commander. A medical school graduate of the University of Toronto, he practiced psychiatry for over 50 years and was a leader in the subspecialty of forensic psychiatry. Awards from the American Medical Association, American Psychiatric Association, and from many other organizations of medicine reflect a life dedicated to human rights. He marched with Martin Luther King, Jr. in Selma, fought against China's torture of the Falun Gong and illegal organ transplantation, the misuse of the insanity defense, and forced psychiatric hospitalization without judicial review. He was a national and international leader against the involvement of physicians in capital punishment and also physician participation in coerced interrogations of prisoners. All were subject of his prolific publications. He is survived by his beloved wife Marilyn, and his loved children (and spouses) Howard, Lon (Barbara), Marnen (Herdis), Chaia (Adam), Mark (Tomoko), Emily, and John. He was an adoring grandfather of 11 and great-grandfather of 5. Services will be at Zion Memorial Chapel, 785 E. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY on 4/23/2013 at 11AM, Interment to follow at King David Cemetery in Putnam Valley. Published in the The Journal News on April 21, 2013

Dr. Halpern was an internationally renowned leader in the field of psychiatry and its subspecialty of forensic psychiatry. He was a prolific author who had written extensively in opposition to the death penalty and the participation of physicians in executions. He was a dynamic teacher and was frequently called upon as a guest lecturer and grand rounds presenter. Dr. Halpern was a tireless advocate for human rights, patients' rights, and the rights of the physicians who care for them.

He was an active force in organized medicine. He has served as President of the American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law and the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry. He was a Fellow of the American College of Psychiatrists, a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and a Distinguished Life Fellow of the American Psychiatric Association. Dr. Halpern was also a Fellow of the American College of Physicians and contributed to the development of the College's Ethics Manual.

In 2000 Dr. Halpern was given the Human Rights Award from the American Psychiatric Association.

In 2003 he received the Medical Society State of New York's President's Citizenship Award
Added by: Gene Baumwoll CSW 6/20/2013