

The number of people here tonight is a testament to what a special man my grandfather was and how many lives he touched.

Sir Naim Dangoor CBE, but to me, my siblings and cousins he was Papa.

Growing up we would spend every Shabbat lunch at his and Mama's flat in Kensington, eating delicious food and being surrounded by a sense of warmth, security and strength that they exuded.

I remember Mama and Papa had a little picture up in their bathroom with a well-known poem written below it about keeping the bathroom clean. I really loved this poem and over time on my weekly visits to their flat I memorized it, although I didn't think anyone knew that I had. When the time came for me to go off to University I received a package in the mail from Papa. There was a note that said, 'now you are going to be sharing your bathroom with other people this might come in handy', and inside was the picture and poem from their bathroom. I couldn't believe how perceptive he was, that he'd noticed just how much I loved it, without me ever telling him, and it is still hanging in my bathroom today.

But that was Papa, he was extremely insightful and wise. He had a shrewd business sense that allowed him to rebuild his life here in the UK and create a successful business that I, Daniel and Sarah now work in with my Dad and Uncles.

He was dynamic, an original thinker and a man of action. He told me that once he became frustrated because the road he lived on - Kensington Gore - wasn't properly sign posted, and people trying to find it would often get lost. He wrote to the council asking them to put up a sign but nothing happened. So he wrote again and said if a sign was not put up soon, he would put up his own sign saying not Kensington Gore but 'Dan Goor' – sure enough a few weeks later the council had put up the road sign.

And this ability to make things happen coupled with his generosity meant that helping other people was always a central feature of his life. He has supported so many different educational and health charities and taught us all the importance of giving something back to our and the wider community.

In his public life he was a dominant and charismatic figure, a leader with strong ideas and opinions, but when my grandmother Mama became unwell it was humbling to see how this powerful man cared for her so gently and with so much devotion. For me it really revealed his deep humanity, something that was at the heart of everything that he did.

Papa was blessed with a very long and full life. Just under two years ago we celebrated the Pesach Seder at his flat that coincided with his 100th birthday. He was still able to recite many passages from the Haggadah by heart.

And in June this year at the age of 101, he received a knighthood from the Queen. This meant a great deal to him, as he had always been so grateful to this country for giving him the opportunity to rebuild his life when he left Baghdad. He taught us to value and appreciate the freedom and security of living in Britain, but also to be proud of our Iraqi roots, and so much of our family life is based on the foundations he laid.

It was fitting therefore that he passed away surrounded by his family, in his home of over 50 years. And standing by his bedside it was very moving for me to feel my son, who is due to be born in 8 weeks time kicking inside me. I pray that he will inherit some of Papa's many qualities and determination. We have a great deal to be thankful to Papa for, not just in my generation, but in generations to come.