

**Albert Hall Mansions was where my grandfather lived for 53 years. The management there held my grandfather in such high esteem that they sent us a poem after he passed away - of which I would like to read out a few lines;**

**"You can shed a tear that he is gone or you can smile that he lived, you can close your eyes and pray that he will come back or you can open your eyes and see all that he has left"**

**I thought it would be appropriate to begin with these kind words because I have been struggling to find the words that could do such a great man justice.**

**The truth is, when I think about how I would describe my grandfather, the words Loving, Caring, Loyal, Determined and persistent spring to mind. However, I can't help but feel as if these words don't justly measure just How Loving, Caring, and special he truly was. The way he took care of my grandma through the years was truly inspirational, and demonstrated the true marker of his success; his capacity to be so selfless, a characteristic he demonstrated to those he loved dearly, to those he encountered, and even to those he had never met.**

**My Grandfather taught me a number of things. He taught me that humility is the true maker of a man, he taught me to never give up, he was a man that truly practiced all that we should aim to preach. My grandfather was an innovator, always thinking of new ways to make the world a better place, nothing was beyond the realm of possibility, there was no such word as can't.**

**My grandfather Naim or Papa to me, did not only dream big, and talk of big things, but he made these things reality. The fact he created the first modern bridge in Baghdad is testament to the many ways in which he always strived to manifest all that he envisioned. He built bridges, in every sense of the term.**

**So, words will never be able to do such an inspirational man the justice he deserves, as i am sure all of you here who knew my grandfather are very aware of. However, what we can do is use the words we have to describe him, to inform our lives. Because of my grandpa, I will never give up on pursuing my dreams, I will always strive to think outside the box, I will always demonstrate compassion and humility, and strive to follow in the footsteps the best I can of a man who did his part to make the world a better place for those of us here today.**

**As the poem says “We can remember him and only that he is gone, or we can cherish his memory and let it live on”**

**Maybe words can't measure a man like my grandfather because he was a man of action and action speaks far louder than words. So that is what he has taught me and what he has left behind - character traits that his children and grandchildren can learn from, and aspire towards. We can't bring him back, but through learning from his life, a life that will never be forgotten, that is how his legacy will live on.**

