



## OCA Wall of Honour

### Zeev Vered (1926 – 2008)



Mr. Zeev Vered, a respected colleague and cherished friend, is always described as a man of his word, someone who led by example and a leader who never shied away from a challenge. Sadly, Zeev Vered passed away on June 9, 2008.

Following his service in the Israeli Army during the 1948 War of Independence, Zeev Vered (with his wife Sara) came to Canada in 1950. He ventured into this new life with very little means, save for his optimism, his drive to learn and his compassion for others. Zeev graduated from McGill University with an engineering degree in 1954 and subsequently moved to Ottawa in 1957. He established the business of Ron Engineering and Construction (Eastern) Ltd. in 1958.

Throughout the years, Zeev Vered nurtured Ron Engineering (and the Arnon Group of companies) to grow and thrive based on his personal philosophy that a good relationship was the most important foundation of any business dealings. Zeev led by example, and under his tutelage Ron Engineering grew to be a leading Canadian construction company that is described as diversified, knowledgeable, insightful and professional.

Zeev Vered was an intensely loyal man. The sub-trades, suppliers and consultants who worked with him on site every day knew exactly what was expected of them and strove to do the best job possible. In turn, these companies knew that a job well done for Mr. Vered always led to future work.

Zeev Vered's professional accolades are many. He was also a man whose heart was in helping others. His legacy of philanthropy and good will are assured in the many endeavours that bear the proud Vered family name. In the early 1980's, it was Zeev Vered who almost single-handedly took charge of Ottawa's Heart Institute Capital Campaign. He received numerous awards and citations over the years, which served as recognitions that lauded Zeev's successful professional achievements, his many and varied philanthropic commitments and his compelling leadership. Most notably, in 2002, Zeev Vered was named a member of the distinguished Order of Canada, described as "a successful entrepreneur and businessman, [who] has given back to his community ... in the arts, education, health care and the Jewish community." Mr. Vered also received the B'nai Brith Award of Merit, the United Jewish Appeal Leadership Award, an honorary doctorate from the University of Ottawa and a Commemorative Medal for the 125th anniversary of the Confederation of Canada.

Zeev Vered was a committed family man, engineer, business partner, philanthropist and friend. In all, Zeev was loyal, encouraging, dedicated, educated, hardworking and a visionary who believed that anything was possible. His legacy is timeless. Zeev Vered exemplifies a man who others seek to emulate.

He is survived by his wife Sara and his sons Gillie, Arnie and Ron, and his daughters-in-law Susan, Elizabeth and Jennifer, and his 11 grandchildren.