Donald A.B. Lindberg: A Lifelong Friend

Fredric L. EDELMAN M.D.¹
Neurosurgeon, Los Angeles, CA. U.S.A.

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Don Lindberg and I grew up together in Brooklyn, NY. We probably first met in Kindergarten, PS 197.

Another memoir in the current book explains that I introduced Don to Carl M. Pellman M.D., and they became lifelong friends. Dr. Pellman was Don's colleague at Amherst and our peer at the Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in the 1950s.

Despite a continental divide (my wife Emily and I moved to Los Angeles years ago), Don and I kept in contact. Emily and I saw Don and Mary whenever the opportunity arose.

Regarding our meetings, one of my fondest memories occurred just several years ago. Mary and Don, Emily, and I had dinner near Los Angeles International Airport at a hotel where Don and Mary stayed before a flight to Australia.

After dinner, another guest who dined alone unexpectedly came over to our table. He exclaimed that although he ate solo, his meal was memorable because he could hear the four of us chat enthusiastically about plentiful topics and frequently laugh at ourselves and others. Until that moment, I was not aware that our friendship was so rich and gratifying that it could be recognized as rewarding by others. Yet, such was Emily and my relationship with Mary and Don.

As with many friends, you never know the scope of their accomplishments until you read obituaries or attend a memorial service. The latter also is my case with Don Lindberg, whom I admired for eight decades.

¹ Corresponding author: edelmanmd@sbcglobal.net