

ALBERT ARISS 2005

by Barbara Ariss Stroh-Wasser

Born across the ocean
Into aristocracy and wealth
Thrown into desperation by
A mother's untimely death.
Followed by a stepmother's abuse.
You conquered these and other
Challenges of life,
By the strength of
Your spirit, mind and body,
Reflected by this exploding sparkle
In your eyes.

You shook the hands of
Presidents and dignitaries,
You competed in the Olympics
And sports games in Europe,
Travelling to Helsinki in the North,
To Moscow in the East,
And to many cities in between.

You travelled the world
Half a century ago.
You loved North America,
Its vastness of land, waters and skies,
But mostly its people and their stories.

Your sense of responsibility and wisdom
Earned you utmost respect
From family and friends.

No question asked,
Your children and family came first,
And you put yourself last.

No matter how hard life pushed you to the ground,
You always stood up with pride
And walked tall.

It's not easy to live up to you,
But with your help and guidance,
We will always walk tall with you and for you.