

### **Late Sh. L. S. Adhikari (1934-2004)**

Shri Lal Singh Adhikari, Founding President of UANA, passed away on January 7, 2004. In his passing, the Uttaranchali community has suffered a great loss.

I have known Adhikari ji for a long time, but had the honor and pleasure of sharing some excellent time with him in last 4 years. During this time, I saw in him a friend, a relative, an associate and more than anything a highly seasoned mentor. He not only inspired me to be a part of UANA, but also support and guided me all along the way to make it a productive organization.

Lal Singh Adhikari Ji's journey started from Ajera (Didihat) village in Pithoragarh district of Uttaranchal. Although he was born on August 11, 1934 in Taungzyi, Burma, where his father was serving in the British Army, but he spent earlier years of his life in Ajera village. He attended Didihat Middle School and Government High School in Pithoragarh. His dream of higher education took him to Varanasi where he attended Udai Pratap College to complete his Intermediate and Banaras Hindu University, from where he received his Bachelors of Arts degree. After that he came back home and received his Masters of Arts degree from DSB Government College in Nainital.

I admired Adhikari ji for several of his qualities, which were unique and always inspired me to go an extra step in all aspects of life. As a tribute to him, I would like to remember a few of his qualities for which he would always be remembered by me and every body else, who were touched by this noble man, Adhikari ji.

Adhikari Ji started his professional career as a Lecturer in Degree College at Haldwani. He stayed there for three years before he joined Ministry of External Affairs in New Delhi. Adhikari ji in his lifetime traveled the world as a foreign services executive with 9 full time assignments, but his heart and soul was always in Uttaranchal. His determination, dedication and commitment to be a part in the development of homeland cannot be described in words. His thought process involved everyone, but was geared more towards the people at the grass root level. He wanted to bring a change in their life and lifestyle by providing educational opportunities to them. I feel that the teacher inside him always inspired him to spread the education.

He retired from Indian Foreign Service as Counsel General of India in Zanzibar, Tanzania in November 1992 and moved to USA in 1994. After coming to the States, he started working on bringing the Uttaranchali community together and direct resources for the development of the homeland. He single handedly shaped UANA from a community organization to a non-profit international organization and formed a permanent link between the Uttaranchalies living at home and Uttaranchalies living away from home, a true ambassador of Uttaranchal.

I always referred to him as the Iron man. I cannot think of anything that made him deviate from his ambition and objectives, both in his personal and professional life. During the several meetings that we had in last few years, at times I could imagine the pain he was going through due to his continuing illness. Adhikari ji, the strong willed man he was, always put that agony in the back seat and directed all of us to focus on the fundamental issues. His endurance for pain and stamina to fight it convinced me to call him the Iron Man.

Adhikari ji was a man of few words, but every word he spoke was of significant regard and meaning. The list of his qualities can go on and on, but in the nutshell, as my final tribute to him, I will say “Adhikari ji, a strictly disciplined, strong willed, determined, dedicated and committed human being who used his words wisely, endured pain, yet inspired all of us to be a true ambassador of our homeland will be missed eternally.

May his soul rest in peace. Also, may god give all of us, especially Shrimati Vibha Adhikari (Auntie Ji), Ajay, Anita, Sanjay, Aditya, Aanand Adhikari and Dr. Manju Karki strength to deal with this loss and courage to follow his footsteps?

**“Dream and Shoot for the Stars. The future of our young state lies in your hands. Help UTTARANCHAL Grow”.**

**- L. S. Adhikari (1934-2004)**

Ajay Rawat  
President, UANA