



In Memoriam: Alexander Rankin, V, Founder of Vulcan Spring and Community Leader

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Alexander Rankin, V, a visionary entrepreneur, beloved community leader, and founder of Vulcan Spring and Manufacturing Co. Alexander peacefully left us on February 20, 2024, at the age of 91, surrounded by the love of his family at his home in Bedminster Twp., PA.

Alexander Rankin's journey through life was marked by extraordinary achievements and a profound commitment to his community. Born in Chicago, IL, he graduated from Calumet High School in 1950 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois in 1957. His dedication to service was evident as he proudly served with the U.S. Army from 1953 to 1955 during the Korean War, reaching the rank of Corporal.

After his military service, Alexander embarked on a remarkable career, starting with Firestone Tires, where he was part of the team that invented radial tires. His entrepreneurial spirit led him to establish Vulcan Spring & Manufacturing Co. in 1967, where he transformed a basement startup into a global enterprise. Today, Vulcan Spring produces custom-made parts for various applications worldwide.

Notably, a pivotal moment in the history of Vulcan Spring occurred with the first Talking G.I. Joe doll, made possible by the innovative application of a Vulcan spring. Alexander, instrumental in this breakthrough, boasts multiple patents for processes, products, and advancements within the spring industry. His inventive contributions not only brought the iconic Talking G.I. Joe to life but also established him as a key figure in the industry. Today, Vulcan Spring, under the continuing leadership of his son Scott, continues to be a leading force, carrying forward Alexander's legacy of innovation and excellence.

Alexander Rankin's commitment to community service was extraordinary. In addition to serving as a Deacon in the Hilltown Baptist Church and singing in the Church Choir, he also actively participated by lending his voice to the Church Choir at Re:new Bible Church in Perkasio, PA. Beyond his musical involvement, Alexander dedicated himself wholeheartedly to various community projects, exemplifying a level of commitment that set him apart. His generosity knew no bounds, leaving an indelible mark on the communities he served. In addition to his church roles, Alexander showcased his leadership qualities as a member of the Hilltown Township Zoning Board and as a former member and Past Chairman of the Board of the First Service Bank. In addition to his professional and community achievements, Alexander was an antique car collector, a passionate "goose chaser," and enjoyed dancing and playing the piano. He produced the Broadway production of "Amazing Grace," showcasing his diverse talents and interests.

Alexander Rankin V is survived by his two children, Heather R. Doherty and Scott Rankin, along with their families. His impact extends to his grandchildren and great-grandchildren, who will carry on his legacy of dedication, innovation, and community service.

In honoring Alexander Rankin's memory, let us celebrate a life well-lived, marked by accomplishments that have left an indelible mark on the spring industry, the community, and the hearts of all who had the privilege of knowing him. Alexander has again joined his wife Joanne, and they are celebrating their lives together in heaven.