

## **ADJOURN IN THE MEMORY – ALAN BOCK**

Colleagues, I ask that we adjourn today's meeting in the memory of Alan W. Bock.

A senior editorial writer and columnist for The Orange County Register who gained national prominence as a champion of libertarianism in work spanning more than three decades, Alan passed away on May 18 at the age of 67 at his home in Lake Elsinore.

One of four children, Alan was raised in Trona, a tiny and isolated unincorporated area of San Bernardino County southwest of Death Valley.

He attended UCLA on a National Merit scholarship, graduating with a degree in political science and journalism – and turning into a diehard Bruins basketball fan who could rattle off the names of players and their stats, and details of the team's victories and defeats over the years.

Bock became interested in the philosophy of libertarianism, attending the 1969 Young Americans for Freedom convention in St. Louis when the modern libertarian movement is said to have been born as a distinct movement.

He joined the Register in 1980 as a member of the Opinion and Commentary staff and held a variety of positions at the paper – churning out editorials and columns for more than 30 years.

In addition, he wrote magazine articles for Reason, Freeman, National Review, Harvard Business Review, Liberty, National Educator, Chronicles of Culture, and others. He won a number of awards, including from the California Newspaper Publisher's Association.

A former radio talk-show host, Bock also appeared on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, PBS, and as a guest on numerous radio shows. In addition to penning pieces for the Register, he also wrote a weekly column for Antiwar.com and contributed articles to LewRockwell.com.

Bock also published four books which include "Ecology Action Guide", "The Gospel Life of Hank Williams", "Ambush at Ruby Ridge", and "Waiting to Inhale: The Politics of Medical Marijuana" .

With his neatly trimmed beard, eyeglasses, famously fun neckties and stack of books and papers perpetually jammed under both arms, Bock also cut a figure as a bookish intellect – yet one whose friendly, easygoing nature endeared him to family, friends and colleagues.

He was a classical music aficionado who could identify random pieces of music as well as toss out some history or trivia about it.

Bock also played the bassoon and clarinet. He sang in choral groups and was choir director at his church. His singing talent meant he always got tapped to lead "Happy Birthday" songs at the office.

Bock also knew his way around the kitchen, and often would whip up wonderful meals for his family.

But most of all, Alan devoted his energies to writing volumes of pieces that espoused the tenets of libertarianism – and the need to do away with most of the government.

Said his son Stephen: "He was passionate about liberty and our rights and freedoms. He wrote to keep 'The Man' at bay. When he saw things that he thought went against a person's liberty and freedom, he wrote about it.

"He once told me, 'As long as I'm complaining and trying to keep people in check, that's what matters.'"

Alan is survived by his wife, Jennifer, and their son, Stephen, as well as two other adult children from a previous marriage, Justin and Madeline.

Colleagues, I ask that we keep Alan and his family in your prayers.