



*In Loving Memory*

**DR. ABDALLAH  
ABOU ZAHR**

**JANUARY 1, 1984 - JANUARY 23, 2026**

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**RIVERHAVEN EVENTS CENTER  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2026**

700 1<sup>ST</sup> AVE NORTH, MOORHEAD, MINNESOTA  
3:30 P.M. - CELEBRATION OF LIFE

# REMEMBERING ABDALLAH...

DR. ABDALLAH ABOU ZAHR LIVED FULLY IN HIS ROLES AS A DEVOTED HUSBAND, LOVING FATHER, CHERISHED FAMILY MEMBER, LOYAL FRIEND, AND EXTRAORDINARY PHYSICIAN.

HE WAS BORN IN SAIDA, LEBANON, ON JANUARY 1, 1984, TO RAMZI AND MAY ABOU ZAHR. FROM AN EARLY AGE, HE KNEW HE WANTED TO BECOME A PHYSICIAN. HIS YOUTH FOSTERED A DEEP LOVE OF THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, SPORTS (BASKETBALL, PING-PONG, AND FUTBOL), FOOD—ESPECIALLY SWEETS—AND A LIFELONG CURIOSITY ABOUT WORLD DYNAMICS.

HE COMPLETED MEDICAL SCHOOL AT THE AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT IN 2008 AND THEN MOVED TO THE UNITED STATES TO PURSUE ADVANCED MEDICAL TRAINING. HE COMPLETED HIS INTERNAL MEDICINE RESIDENCY AT UT SOUTHWESTERN IN DALLAS, FOLLOWED BY A HEMATOLOGY/ONCOLOGY FELLOWSHIP AT MOUNT SINAI BETH ISRAEL IN NEW YORK CITY, AND A LEUKEMIA FELLOWSHIP AT MD ANDERSON CANCER CENTER IN HOUSTON.

HIS CAREER ULTIMATELY BROUGHT HIM TO FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA, WHERE HE FOUND WHAT WOULD BECOME HIS DREAM JOB AS A HEMATOLOGIST/ONCOLOGIST AT ROGER MARIS CANCER CENTER IN 2017. WHEN SPEAKING OF THE FUTURE, HE ONCE TOLD HIS WIFE THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO RETIRE “UNTIL THEY KICKED HIM OUT,” BECAUSE OF HOW DEEPLY HE LOVED HIS WORK. HIS PATIENTS CONSISTENTLY SPOKE OF HIS BRILLIANCE, COMPASSION, AND DEDICATION TO SAVING LIVES. ABDALLAH, EVER HUMBLE, WOULD SIMPLY RESPOND, “IT WASN’T ME, IT WAS THE MEDICINE.”

IN 2019, HE MET HIS FUTURE WIFE, SHAUNA ERICKSON (ABOU ZAHR), WHOM HE DESCRIBED AS “BRINGING COLOR TO HIS LIFE” AND AS HIS “ROCK.” IN A TRAGIC TURN, JUST THREE MONTHS BEFORE THEIR PLANNED WEDDING, ABDALLAH DISCOVERED BREAST CANCER IN SHAUNA. SHE CREDITS HIM WITH SAVING HER LIFE. THE COUPLE ELOPED IN 2021 SHORTLY AFTER HER DIAGNOSIS, KNOWING THAT ALL THEY TRULY WANTED WAS TO BE MARRIED TO ONE ANOTHER.

JUST ONE WEEK AFTER THEIR HONEYMOON, ABDALLAH—PREVIOUSLY THE PICTURE OF HEALTH—WAS DIAGNOSED WITH MYXOID LIPOSARCOMA. TOGETHER, THEY FACED CANCER WITH RESILIENCE AND HOPE, PREPARING TO CELEBRATE SURVIVORSHIP AND BUILD A FAMILY. CANCER, HOWEVER, HAD OTHER PLANS. WHILE SHAUNA WAS IN HER SECOND TRIMESTER OF PREGNANCY, ABDALLAH WAS DIAGNOSED WITH A TERMINAL RECURRENCE AND GIVEN A SIX-MONTH PROGNOSIS. THOUGH THE JOURNEY WAS NOT EASY, HE FAR SURPASSED THAT PROGNOSIS AND COMPLETED HIS HEROIC BATTLE ON JANUARY 23, 2026, WHEN HE PASSED AWAY WITH SHAUNA AT HIS SIDE.

HE FOUGHT TIRELESSLY TO WITNESS THE SACRED MILESTONES OF HIS CHILDREN'S LIVES AND CHERISHED "EVERY MOMENT" HE HAD. THOUGH INITIALLY UNSURE ABOUT HAVING CHILDREN, THE BIRTH OF HIS DAUGHTER, NADIA, REVEALED A ROLE HE LOVED EVEN MORE THAN BEING A PHYSICIAN. HE IMMERSSED HIMSELF FULLY IN FATHERHOOD, CARING FOR HER, DOTING ON HER, SINGING MADE UP SONGS TO HER, AND BECOMING HER FAVORITE PLACE TO REST UNTIL HIS BODY NO LONGER ALLOWED IT. AS HIS HEALTH DECLINED, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT HE WAS HOLDING ON TO MEET HIS SON, TAREK—MEANING "BRIGHT STAR"—WHO WAS BORN IN OCTOBER, 2025.

ABDALLAH WAS KNOWN FOR HIS LOVE OF FOOD, TRAVEL, CYCLING, CURRENT EVENTS, AND PRACTICING MEDICINE AT ALL HOURS OF THE DAY. HE FILLED EVERY ROOM WITH HIS WARM, HUMBLE SMILE AND EYES THAT SEEMED TO EMBRACE EVERYONE HE MET. HE LIVED GENTLY AND NONJUDGMENTALLY, OFFERING A WORLDLY AND PRAGMATIC PERSPECTIVE THAT INSPIRED AND CHALLENGED THOSE AROUND HIM.

ABDALLAH IS SURVIVED BY HIS BELOVED WIFE AND BEST FRIEND, SHAUNA ERICKSON-ABOU ZAHR; HIS CHILDREN, NADIA (2) AND TAREK (3 MONTHS); HIS PARENTS, RAMZI AND MAY ABOU ZAHR; HIS SISTER, NAHED; HIS BROTHER-IN-LAW, MAJDI BIZRI; HIS NIECE, NATALYA; HIS SISTER- AND BROTHER-IN-LAW, ASHLEY AND MICHAEL CAMPION, AND THEIR CHILDREN, FINLEY AND BRIDGER; HIS PARENTS-IN-LAW, KEVIN AND KIM ERICKSON; AND MANY EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS, FRIENDS, COLLEAGUES, AND PATIENTS WHOSE LIVES HE PROFOUNDLY TOUCHED. HIS LEGACY IS ONE THAT WILL LIVE ON INDEFINITELY THROUGH THE LIVES HE CHANGED FOR THE BETTER.

ABDALLAH VIEWED PLANTS, FLOWERS, AND JEWELRY TO ALL BE WASTES OF MONEY. HE ALSO PASSED AWAY WITH WORRIES ABOUT THE ECONOMIC IMPACT HIS DEATH WOULD HAVE ON HIS FAMILY, SO IN LIEU OF FLOWERS THE FAMILY HAS A FUND SET UP TO SUPPORT SHAUNA AND THE CHILDREN AT GATE CITY BANK UNDER "ABOU ZAHR FAMILY BENEFIT."

# ORDER OF SERVICE

WELCOME AND REMEMBRANCE BY KEIRAN VITEK-WIISANEN

“SIMPLY THE BEST” BY TINA TURNER PERFORMED BY ELI  
SIMONSON

LETTER TO MY HUSBAND, SHAUNA ERICKSON-ABOU ZAHR

“IS THAT ALRIGHT?” BY LADY GAGA  
PERFORMED BY ELI SIMONSON

THIS SONG WAS SUNG AT ABDALLAH AND SHAUNA’S WEDDING.

EULOGY BY ASHLEY CAMPION AND FAMILY

“FOR GOOD” FROM WICKED, PERFORMED BY ELI SIMONSON

A LIFE DEFINED BY KINDNESS BY DR. SETH MALISKE

## SHARING OF MEMORIES

AT THIS TIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO INVITE ANYONE  
WILLING TO COME AND SHARE A MEMORY,  
THOUGHT OR STORY ABOUT ABDALLAH TO SPEAK.

STORIES WILL BE PRESERVED AS A LEGACY FOR  
ABDALLAH’S CHILDREN TO KNOW AS THEY GROW.

IF YOU DON’T FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING ALOUD,  
PLEASE WRITE THEM DOWN AND WE CAN READ THEM OR SAVE  
THEM FOR NADIA, TAREK AND HIS FAMILY IN PERPETUITY.