



Allan David Axelrad, MD

May 25, 1943 - January 13, 2026

Allan David Axelrad, MD, 82, passed away surrounded by the love of his life of 42 years, Carolyn, his children and grandchildren on Tuesday, January 13, 2026, in Houston, Texas. David was born in Houston on May 25, 1943, to the late Jack Harry and Sylvia Axelrad. He was the third of four children. His parents and older brothers, Moise and Sam, preceded him in death.

David graduated from San Jacinto High School and attended Vanderbilt University where he was president of his fraternity, Alpha Epsilon Pi. He attended the University of Houston graduate school, receiving a master's in biology/physiology. He continued his studies at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, graduating magna cum laude in 1970. He was elected into the Alpha Omega Alpha Honorary Medical Society in 1969. He entered his residency for psychiatry at the University of California, Davis and completed the program in 1974. He ultimately received licenses to practice medicine in California and Texas.

In 1974, while serving his country, he was appointed chief of one of the inpatient services at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. He transferred to Fort Ord, California as Chief of Mental Hygiene and provided medical direction and psychiatric treatment for military personnel suffering post-traumatic stress disorder from service in the Vietnam War. He served in the United States Army Medical Department, achieving the rank of major

before being honorably discharged from service to his country.

David had a long and distinguished career, receiving board certifications from the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, the American Board of Forensic Psychiatry, the American Academy of Pain Management, along with many other prestigious achievements over the course of his long career. He was appointed by the Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor of California, to the Division of Medical Quality of the California Board of Medical Examiners. After his return to Texas, David was also appointed to the Texas Medical Board by the Honorable Ann Richards, where he served with distinction from 1994 to 2000. At the time of his service, he was the only physician privileged to receive appointments to two state medical boards.

David held numerous academic and teaching positions during his career, including appointments at the University of California – Davis, Baylor University, the University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston and the University of Houston Law Center, as well as the Houston - Galveston Psychoanalytic Institute. He was a past president of the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians and served as a representative from the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians to the Assembly of the American Psychiatric Association. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians in 2007. In 2021, he was awarded the Spencer Bayles Membership Award by the Texas Society of Psychiatric Physicians. He also received the John R. Bush Leadership Excellence Award from the Federation of Texas Psychiatry in 2022. He was an emeritus fellow in the American College of Psychiatry. He served in many roles for the National Pain Foundation, ultimately serving as its president. His contributions have been highlighted in multiple publications and textbooks. In addition to his academic, professional, and state regulatory appointments, he served numerous professional societies, often achieving leadership positions, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pain

Medicine, the Texas Medical Association, and the American Psychiatric Association, among many others. David's professional, academic, and charitable work touched the lives of many people struggling with mental health issues and traumatic brain injury. David was committed to helping others using the expertise he acquired through his training and experience impacting many lives for the better.

David's dedication to his career was only matched by the devotion he had for his family. He adored his wife, Carolyn, who was also his childhood sweetheart. Together they raised four children, all of whom cherished him and are so blessed and grateful for his love, his gentle guidance, and his steady, constant presence in each of their lives. He and Carolyn were blessed with seven wonderful grandchildren who brought them so much love and joy. Through their shared love of all things Galveston, Astros baseball, Texans football, years of spring training adventures, and special family traditions, the bond that David created with his family and extended family was his greatest legacy.

David was a spiritual man, guided by his faith, his love of Judaism, his belief in G-d, and his unwavering conviction in the goodness of humanity.

David is survived by his family, who love him so much and will miss him dearly. He is survived by his beloved wife, Carolyn Freedman Axelrad, and his children, Lauri, Elyse, Jonathan and his wife, Julie, and Erin, and his grandchildren, Ryan, Evan, Ethan, Ari, Max, Morgan and his wife, Lisette, and Eliza. He is also survived by his siblings, Sandra Axelrad Boccara, Charlotte Axelrad, and Buster and Karen Freedman, and many nieces, nephews, cousins, extended family, trusted colleagues and lifelong friends who felt like family. David never met a stranger and extended his hand of friendship and love with ease and grace.

The family is very grateful for the unparalleled care he received from his physicians and nursing staff at Houston Methodist Hospital and the DaVita Dialysis Center.

A graveside service took place on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at 2:00 pm at Adath Emeth Cemetery, 1540 Sylvester Road, Houston, Texas 77009.

Shiva begins at 5:00 pm on Thursday, January 15, 2026, at Congregation Beth Yeshurun, 4525 Beechnut Street, Houston, Texas 77096, and will continue through the week according to the Chapel schedule.

Donations in David's memory may be made to Congregation Shma Koleinu, www.cskhouston.com, Congregation Beth Yeshurun, www.bethyeshurun.org, or a charity of your choice.

Cemetery Details

Adath Emeth Cemetery

1540 Sylvester Rd
Houston, TX 77009

Previous Events

Graveside Service

JAN 15. 2:00 PM (CT)

Adath Emeth Cemetery
1540 Sylvester Rd
Houston, TX 77009

Tribute Wall

SA

“ I knew Dr. Axelrod in the APA assembly. I will miss his kindness, his wisdom and his willingness to teach. Sending my sincere condolences to his family.
Samina Aziz

Samina Aziz - February 26 at 08:53 PM

BP

“ Dr. Axelrad, “Dr. A” was my doctor for many years. I will forever carry with me the wisdom he imparted and cherish the healing he helped me undergo. I feel blessed to have known him. My deepest condolences to Carolyn and his family.

Brenda Prezas - February 14 at 06:54 PM

DB

“ Dr. Axelrad (ADA) and Carolyn were my bosses for many years. He was kind, incredibly intelligent and had a delightful sense of humor. This man worked so hard. He was not only my boss. He was like the best big brother ever to me. He taught me that "every day is a gift". It was an honor and privilege to work with him. Much love to Carolyn and the family.
Diana

Diana Ball - February 08 at 12:41 PM

EE

“ All organizations depend for their backbone on a relatively small number of people who go beyond giving of their time, or their donations, and truly give of themselves. Dr Axelrad was part of the backbone of the APA Assembly for many years. He will be fondly remembered and deeply missed. "The works of our hands, let them endure."

- Evan Eyler

Evan Eyler - January 19 at 12:32 PM

JB

“ Dr. Axelrad's smile and personality lit up the room. He was an exceptional leader and will be greatly missed. My condolences to Carolyn and family.

John Bush

John Bush - January 16 at 04:28 PM

AP

“ I worked for Dr. Axelrad as an interpreter for many years. He was always kind and compassionate not only to his patients but to me. He will be sorely missed.

My deepest condolences.

Ana Maria Paredes

ANA MARIA PAREDES - January 16 at 11:06 AM

JB

“ David brought special light into the world..it is he who encouraged me to make the trip to Romania to experience where our grandparents came from--and I am going soon for all of us. with love to all who came into his orbit..

Joan Axelrod Bronk-David's first cousin...

Joan Bronk - January 16 at 09:31 AM

AM

“ Dr. Axelrad was a kind, jolly and wonderful person, and will be sorely missed. My deepest condolences to his family, friends, and colleagues. I will miss seeing him at our TSPP conferences.
Annette Mitrosz



Annette Mitrosz - January 15 at 04:51 PM

MJ

“ My deepest condolences to the family and friends of Dr. Axelrad. He was a treasured colleague to me and to so many other psychiatrists!
Matthew D Jeffreys, MD

Matthew D Jeffreys - January 15 at 01:03 PM

MK

“ David, a thoughtful, kind, compassionate man, friend, psychiatrist and healer. David, you will be missed by so many. Mike & Gayle Klaybor.

Mike Klaybor - January 15 at 12:08 PM

MM

“ David, a friend, a colleague, and one of the best ambassadors of psychiatry. I was fortunate to work with David in clinical setting, HPS, and TSPP activities. We all will miss him in the future meetings-his ever engaging presence. My heartfelt condolences to his Carol and other loved one's.

Mohsen Mirabi MD - January 14 at 11:01 PM

AK

“ David will be remembered as a kind and giving man, always steady in advice and support. He mentored many of us in the APA, and was a stalwart in our Southern Area. He never treated any person or any question as undeserving; and that is a testament to his outstanding nature. Condolences and prayers to his family and friends.

Adam Kaul - January 14 at 10:37 PM

HG

“ David and I met a little more than 20 years ago, at APA. We saw each other at APA meetings, and when testifying against each other in civil cases - maritime matters - the lawyers may not have been civil to us, but we were to each other. He commented several years ago that he anticipated who I would marry before either I or my wife, Jenny Boyer, knew it was a 'foregone conclusion'. He was and is a 'rare' breed - He will be missed - Harold Ginzburg,

Harold Ginzburg - January 14 at 09:32 PM

LP

“ Lynda P. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Allan David Axelrad, MD.

Lynda P. - January 14 at 06:20 PM

VM

“ I worked with him in the APA assembly for years. Always available, knowledgeable and especially kind. He will be missed.

Valerie Arnold MD - January 14 at 02:46 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Allan David Axelrad, MD.*



January 14 at 02:35 PM



“ *STEVEN PASSIN planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Allan David Axelrad, MD.*

STEVEN PASSIN - January 14 at 02:35 PM



“ *David was my go-to person when I was appointed deputy director of health for California at 28 yrs old. He took leave from his work to sit with me day after day to listen to the requests of so many people and we would be stunned to be making these weighty decisions all of a sudden. Together, we also stood up to the forces at the American Medical Association and from there became lifelong friends. We have since zoomed every couple of months to decry the state of our country. I will miss him so much.*

STEVEN PASSIN - January 14 at 02:30 PM



“ *David was a bright, kind, considerate person. He and I worked closely together at the APA and I always valued his insight and his practicality. I was proud to consider him a friend and will cherish his memory. He truly made an impact in many people's lives. He will be sorely missed.*

Ed Herman - January 14 at 02:02 PM

GS

“ David will always be a great guru for me. His kindness and friendship have been a source of light for so many years. He has had lasting impact in so many lives. I am sad to lose my friend but so gratified to have been graced with his friendship and sage influence in my life and career. He will be missed but always loved.
George and Cindy Santos

George Santos - January 14 at 12:52 PM

FB

“ Frank And Annette Bantle lit a candle in memory of Allan David Axelrad, MD



Frank and Annette Bantle - January 14 at 09:46 AM

CW

“ David was above all a wise and kind man. He was a great leader in psychiatry as a representative to the American Psychiatric Association Assembly for decades. He mentored so many of us, inspiring us all to think deeply and treat everyone with respect, even those we disagree with passionately. His dedication to psychiatry is a model for us all. I will miss our conversations and his gentle wisdom. All the joys of heaven are yours, David. Thank you.

Curt West - January 14 at 09:15 AM

DA

“ Dr. Axelrad was a difference maker. I served with him in our Texas psychiatric organizations (TSPP and The Federation) and in the American Psychiatric Association. He was a strong leader who mentored many of us. He showed unwavering principle and dedication to his patients and profession. His love for his family and his dear wife Carolyn was always present in discussions as he held them close to his heart and mind. I am so sorry for his loss to his family. He was larger than life and I am a better psychiatrist and person for having been mentored by him. May his memory be a blessing. I know he was a blessing for me.

Debra Atkisson - January 14 at 08:20 AM

BS

“ Forty years ago dr david axelrad put me in a hypnotic trance to get over my shyness. He never took me out of it. He always said one day he would. Now that he is gone i wonder what will happen to me. I am doomed to be a loud obnoxious man. Oy vey
Bruce stein

bruce stein - January 13 at 11:27 PM