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## Late Lallubhai Bhagabhai Patel

07.02.1933 - 04.09.2009



Lallubhai was married to Savitaben (1933-2013). They migrated to Zambia in the 1950s. Lallubhai served in the British military and then worked in a grain mill in Ndola. In 1960 he joined the family businesses as a designer and cutter of “Charm’s Clothing”.

Lallubhai didn’t want to come to the UK, but a family incident changed his mind. In 1976, his son Dilipbhai was going to a friend’s wedding and got involved in a major car accident and went into a coma. Upon recovery, Dilipbhai who wanted to come to UK, got his wish fulfilled.

Lallubhai and his family landed in the UK in 1977, and initially settled in Loughborough. He, along with the family, worked in Mansfield Knitwear Factory. He shared his sewing skills with the family at home, and so they were all able to earn money by making dresses and winter coats for catalogue businesses.

From those humble beginnings, Lallubhai bought his first family home in 1978. As well as working at the factory and sewing at home, the family now also rented out movie videos.



In 1980, the family relocated to London and bought a newsagent. With his military and disciplined mindset, he used his carpentry, building, electrical, and sewing precision skills to keep the fit out costs to a minimum.



*National Service Training Depot  
No. 12 Platoon 'D' Company (1956)*

In 1981, Lallubhai suffered double kidney failure and needed a donor. The anonymous donor's identity was eventually revealed to be his son, Dilipbhai, aged 27 at the time, reflecting the family dedication they both valued so highly. Lallubhai lived well for another 28 years, and Dilipbhai is still going strong with one kidney 40 years later to the surprise of his doctors.



On November 5th 1988, the whole family (3 children and 5 adults) survived a major fire in their two storey flat above their newsagent. Around 4am, when everyone was sleeping, the fire started from the front of the shop and spread very fast. There was a power cut and flames spread fast through the building. Everyone managed to get to the back room on the first floor, where the flames had not reached yet. With smoke filling the room, we all had difficulty breathing, and due to burglar bars on the window, we had no way out. Fortunately the fire fighters got to us in time, cut through the burglar bars, and evacuated us all safely. The building was totally gutted over the coming year. During this time we all lived together in temporary accommodation, until 1990.

The family is now split between USA and UK. Both Lallubhai and Savitaben have now passed away, but went knowing the whole family are settled and doing well.



*Family in Loughborough (1978)*



*Living with family in London (1996)*



*First holiday in London (1972)*