

Tributes Accredited to Sir Allen McClay from NI Politicians

Acting First Minister, Arlene Foster

Acting First Minister and Minister for Enterprise Arlene Foster said Sir Allen was **"a truly inspirational entrepreneur"** with a vision and the personal drive to realise it.

"In a relatively short space of time he oversaw the growth of the Almac Group into a global service provider at the forefront of the pharmaceutical and biotechnology sectors, putting Northern Ireland firmly on the global map in a number of areas."



"Almac has also become one of Northern Ireland's major employers with 1,500 skilled individuals at its headquarters in Craigavon and an additional 1,000 located in facilities throughout the rest of the UK and the east and west coasts of the US."

"Whilst Sir Allen's contribution to the economy was immense, we should remember that, first and foremost, he was both a family man and an inspirational mentor to those who worked for Almac. Our thoughts are with his wife, his family and the employees of Almac at this difficult time."

David Simpson MP MLA, DUP

"I was privileged to have counted Sir Allen as a good friend. I have always been deeply impressed by his love for the area and his passion for a better future for the province."

Sir Allen personified all that is good in business and industry, and his entrepreneurial and innovative genius was matched only by his genuine philanthropic spirit. We have lost a great Ulsterman who was very proud of his Ulster roots and someone whom Northern Ireland can in turn be justly proud of."



Sir Allen was very committed to providing employment for local people and was determined that Craigavon would be a centre of world excellence. When he received his knighthood in 2005, it was for his services to both business and charity. This was an appropriate acknowledgement of the enormous contribution that Sir Allen made. I have no doubt that Sir Allen's work, led the world in pioneering treatments for cancer and saved countless lives."

Although he has gone, Sir Allen has left behind a legacy that is rich in the truest sense of the word. That surely, will be a fitting epitaph to his memory. His passing is a loss to the whole of Northern Ireland but especially it will be felt most keenly by those who knew and loved him. My thoughts and prayers are with his wife Heather and the entire family circle at what is a very difficult time."

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NI Deputy First Minister, Martin McGuinness

Tributes have been paid to Sir Allen by the NI deputy first minister, Martin McGuinness, and the chief executive of Almac.

Mr McGuinness said:

"I know that I will echo the thoughts of many when I say that we have not only lost a wonderful businessman but also a true gentlemen.

"Sir Allen McClay was perhaps the most successful businessman we have ever produced."



Sir Reg Empey - UUP

Ulster Unionist Party leader Sir Reg Empey, Minister of Employment and Learning, has paid tribute to Sir Allen McClay, founder of pharmaceutical sales and marketing company, ALMAC, based in Craigavon, following his death on Wednesday.

"Sir Allen McClay, judged by many to be one of Northern Ireland's foremost businessmen was also a well-known philanthropist, donating as he did huge sums of money to Queen's University, Belfast, and to establishing the McClay medical research foundation.



"These gestures were typical of a man who demonstrated an unremitting commitment to fostering local talent, and bringing investment to Northern Ireland.

"I have no doubt that Sir Allen's legacy will ensure the continued production of skilled graduates in the life and health sciences areas, and his success will certainly remain an inspiration."

Dr Alasdair McDonnell - SDLP

Northern Ireland lawmaker Dr. Alasdair McDonnell called McClay ***"a great pioneer and a great visionary."***

"Allen was an honest, approachable, unpretentious and exceptionally generous man," McDonnell said. "His death is a great loss not just to the entrepreneurial world but to Northern Ireland."



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Cllr Trevor Wilson, Ulster Unionist

"I got to know him very well over the last couple of years especially through the campaign to keep Westland Home open which like Allen's life was successful"

"His enthusiasm for life and for medical research knows no boundaries"

"The amount of work and effort Sir Allen put into medical research will always be remembered".



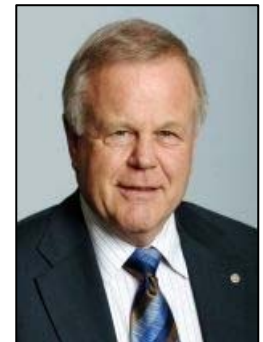
Councillor Trevor Lunn, MLA - Alliance

Alliance MLA Trevor Lunn has expressed deep sadness at the death of Sir Allen McClay. Sir Allen was the founder of leading pharmaceuticals company Almac and was highly regarded philanthropist.

Lagan Valley MLA Trevor Lunn said:

"This is very sad news for Northern Ireland. Sir Allen was one of the most successful and most generous people Northern Ireland has ever seen.

"His philanthropic work has helped benefit the lives of many within his workforce and across the wider community. His legacy will live on in the McClay Foundation and his example should be followed by other business figures who could help improve our society."



Billy Armstrong, Ulster Unionist MLA for Mid-Ulster

"I extend my sympathy to his wife Heather, his sister and the wider family circle"

