

## BIO: DR. ALAN L. BERMAN (LANNY)

Dr. Berman retired on July 1, 2014 as the Executive Director of the American Association of Suicidology (AAS), a position he held from January, 1995. He currently is Adjunct Professor of Psychiatry and Behavioral Sciences at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. He is a Past-President of the AAS (1984-1985), their 1982 Shneidman Award recipient (for Outstanding Contributions in Research in Suicidology), and the 2006 recipient of AAS's Louis I. Dublin Award for outstanding service and contributions to the field of suicide prevention.

Dr. Berman holds a B.A. degree from the Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. from the Catholic University of America. From 1969 to 1991 he taught at the American University (AU) where he attained the rank of tenured full professor. Since 1991 Dr. Berman has been a Distinguished Adjunct Professor at AU. In 1991, he was named Director of the newly established National Center for the Study and Prevention of Suicide at the Washington School of Psychiatry, a position he held until accepting his Executive Director position with the AAS.

A Diplomate in Clinical Psychology (American Board of Professional Psychology) and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association, Dr. Berman maintains a part-time private practice of psychological and forensic consultation in Chevy Chase, MD. He has published over 125 professional articles and book chapters and 7 books (see below). From 1990-1994, he served as Case Consultation Editor of the journal *Suicide and Life Threatening Behavior (SLTB)*. In 1994 Dr. Berman was elected Editor-in-Chief of *SLTB*; however, he resigned this position when he was chosen as the AAS's Executive Director. He remains a consulting editor to *SLTB* and three other journals. He is a Fellow of the International Academy of Suicide Research. In 2009 and in 2011 Dr. Berman was twice elected President of the International Association for Suicide Prevention (IASP), after previously serving as 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President and Treasurer of IASP. He served as the President of Section (VII) of Behavioral Emergencies of the Division of Clinical Psychology (Div. 12) of the American Psychological Association in 2004.

Dr. Berman appears frequently on both national and local media. He has appeared on *The Today Show (2x)*, *Good Morning America*, *Hour Magazine*, and *The Larry King Show*.

He has testified on Capitol Hill three times: on suicide among Vietnam combat veterans, on teenage suicide, and on the U.S.S. Iowa explosion. In 1996 he was appointed Consultant to the Office of Independent Counsel to investigate and finalize their report on the 1993 death of White House Counsel Vincent Foster, Jr.

He served on the HHS Federal Task Force on Youth Suicide Prevention (1985-6), was an initiating member of the Centers for Disease Control sponsored "Working Group" on the operational criteria for the classification of suicide and the NIMH sponsored conference on developing a nomenclature for suicide morbidity. Further, he served on three Task Forces of the National Action Alliance for Suicide Prevention and was appointed to the Action Alliance's Executive Committee in 2013.

He frequently is asked to serve as an expert witness in legal cases involving suicide malpractice and wrongful death and has a national reputation as a teacher and professional workshop leader on topics of clinical suicidology and suicide prevention. In 2009, he was Board Certified in Forensic Suicidology by the AAS. In 2009-2010 Dr. Berman was one of only seven civilians to receive a Congressional appointment to the Department of Defense Task Force on the Prevention of Suicide among Members of the Armed Forces.

Dr. Berman has edited (1) *Suicide Prevention: Case Consultations* (1990), N.Y.: Springer; is the senior author of (2) *Adolescent Suicide: Assessment and Intervention* (1991), Wash., D.C.: American Psychological Association (David Jobes, co-author). [The 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of *Adolescent Suicide: Assessment and Intervention* was published by the APA in 2005 with Morton Silverman as a 3<sup>rd</sup> author]; and co-edited: (3) *Assessment and Prediction of Suicide* (1992, NY: Guilford Press) (with Drs. Ronald Maris, John Maltsberger, and Robert Yufit), (4) *Suicidology: Essays in Honor of Edwin S. Shneidman* (1995: with Drs. Antoon Leenaars, Pamela Cantor, Ron Maris, and Robert Litman), (5) *Risk Management with Suicidal Patients* (1998: NY: Guilford; with Drs. Bruce Bongar, Ron Maris, Morton Silverman, Erik Harris, and Wendy Packman); is co-author of (6) *The Comprehensive Textbook of Suicidology and Suicide Prevention* (2000: NY: Guilford; with Drs. Ronald Maris and Morton Silverman. His latest book, co-edited with Maurizio Pompili, MD, (7) *Medical Conditions Associated with Suicide Risk*, was published in April, 2011.