



## Alexander Zucker

August 1, 1924 - November 8, 2017

Alex Zucker arrived in this country, with his father Willy, mother Berta and younger sister Eva, in the space between the Nazi invasion of Austria and the full horror of World War II. Because his father was an Austrian citizen the family was permitted to enter America. His grandparents perished in the holocaust. Alex was accepted into the Stuyvesant Science High School in New York City. His summer jobs selling pots and pans at Macy's and measuring lumber in Crossville TN convinced him that science was a far better life choice for him, than business!

Alex served in the United States Army during WWII in the 807th. Tank Destroyers Division of the Third Army, landing on Omaha Beach on D Day + 2. His unit fought in the hedge rows and battled through France to liberate the city of Metz. His unit then crossed the Rhine in the battle of the bulge. They were on leave preparing to invade Japan when the bomb ended the war. He was deeply proud of his service to his new country. He had great faith in the goodness of America.

After the war, with the help of the GI Bill he chose to attend the University of Vermont in search of "coeducation and skiing". After leaving U of V he attended Yale University in New Haven Connecticut, graduating with a Phd. In Physics. He joined the Electro Nuclear Division of Oak Ridge National Laboratory in 1950, where he and his team soon designed and built the Sixty Three Inch Cyclotron. He was well known around the scientific world for his contributions to Nuclear Physics, making friends wherever he traveled. With Fulbright and Guggenheim scholarships he spent a year at the Rutherford Laboratory in England. For two years he served on the Environmental Science Studies Board of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, DC. became Division Director, Associate Director and acting ORNL Laboratory Director before his retirement. He encouraged the development of the High Temperature Materials Laboratory at ORNL He was instrumental in forging a tight and permanent bond between ORNL and the University of Tennessee. In retirement he taught Physics at UT and was delighted when his students voted him "teacher of the year". He had an endless love of learning.

As a newly arrived citizen of Oak Ridge Alex jumped in, with many others of his stripe, to promote the arts which are now an outstanding part of community culture. He was a

founding member of the Oak Ridge Art Center and one of its first presidents. He was an ardent fan of classical music and an early member of the Oak Ridge Civic Music Association. When attending an ORCMA “ coffee” concert he met and fell in love with his partner and wife of 64 years Joan-Ellen Jamieson. Together they later served as ORCMA Presidents. He also contributed to the community in many service areas. He was , for many years, a member of the morning Rotary. In 2007 he and Joan-Ellen were jointly awarded the Governor Frank G. Clement Community Service Award for many devoted years as alternating Board Members of Ridgeview Psychiatric Center.

Alex started his life with a small family but over the years it grew exponentially into a band of multi cultural, multi aged admirers. His attitude towards new personal adventures was “ bring it on and we will make it normal” His heart and intellect were perpetually open to his beloved children Becky,Claire and Susannah and their life partners Bill, Steve and Jimmy, He adored his granddaughters Katherine and Danielle. He cared deeply about his step son Dan, his partner Diane and his tribe of wonderful offspring: Cyraea, Peter, Rebekah, Anna and Benjy; their mother Tere and their children; Taylor, Grace, Dillon , Ashley Bobbie , Gus and Noah et al. He loved his nieces Diana and Wendy and their children and his cousin John. He was devoted to Joan-Ellen’s brother and sisters Bill, Margot, Kathy, Fran and their children. He did not just love them he was truly, actively interested in everything about them. He was a loyal and devoted friend, as well. In his lifetime he had seven dogs with whom he took serious daily walks. His light will continue to shine on those who loved and honored him. There will be a memorial service at the Oak Ridge Unitarian Universalist Church on Saturday November 25th. AT 1:00 PM. Instead of flowers please consider a gift in his name to The Oak Ridge Arts Council. Oak Ridge Civic Music Association, United Jewish Appeal or Global Giving

Online messages may be left for the family at [www.martinfuneralhomeoakridge.com](http://www.martinfuneralhomeoakridge.com).

Services entrusted to Martin Oak Ridge Funeral Home

# Comments

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“ My sincere condolences to you and your family. Alex was a amazing force and a true gentlemen who will be missed greatly and well remembered. Ginny Cone

M Virginia Cone - December 06, 2017 at 01:24 PM

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“ My deep condolences to the family of Alex Zucker. Our paths crossed at Oak Ridge National Laboratory on several occasions. I think one of the last such occasion was in my capacity as Honors and Awards Coordinator for the Lab. I worked with Alex and Joan-Ellen to invite young musicians to ORNL's Awards Night ceremony to entertain during dinner. It always has been a delight to see him at various Oak Ridge functions. Oak Ridge has lost more than a kind and talented scientist. The communities, of which Alex was a part, have lost a true leader who greatly influenced us all for good. I will miss him.

- Phil King

Phil King - November 22, 2017 at 07:40 AM

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“ We are neighbors and friends of Fran Jamison and David Unger as well as their daughter Liz, in Silver Spring, Maryland. We want to express our sympathy for their loss of Alex Sucker. In reading his obituary, we are in awe of Alex ,his accomplishments and his triumphant passage through life. MAY HE REST IN PEACE



Elizabeth Bertera - November 17, 2017 at 01:29 PM

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“ I am sorry sorry to hear of Mr. Zucker's passing. I always enjoyed spending time at Clarie's house when I was growing up. My thoughts are with Clarie and all members of the Zucker family.

Lori (Smith) Valone - November 16, 2017 at 12:28 PM

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“ Joan-Ellen and Alex were our neighbors when we moved to Oak Ridge 21 years back. They were kind to our two boys who were 3 and 10 years old. I remember Alex taking the time to share the wonders of physics with my inquisitive 10-year-old. Over the years when we ran into each other, he took a moment to inquire about them and their academic progress. His was a life well celebrated and will also remain celebrated by all whom he touched.

Rajendra Jain - November 15, 2017 at 08:02 AM

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“ It's impossible to find the right words to say how sad we are that Alex is no longer with us. The earth doesn't seem to be revolving right and Oak Ridge seems to suddenly be a different town. Alex has been many things to me in the time I've known him, from a feared division leader when I was a grad student all the way to friend and fellow lover of the arts, and I know my feelings can be amplified by hundreds or thousands because of so many other people he crossed paths with. The world is measurably better for having been the home of Alex Zucker. We will truly miss him.  
Mike (and Linda) Cates

Mike Cates - November 13, 2017 at 01:11 PM

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“ Alex was a great man and had a huge impact on many of us in science. In 1998, Alex was the first to alert us at UT that DOE would compete the contract to manage ORNL, and he got us started on thinking and planning, which resulted in the formation of UT-Battelle and the successful bid to manage ORNL. Alex served as a key advisor to our committee at UT as we went through this process. Of course I have known and respected Alex through my 46 years on the UT faculty and always admired him as a very wise man, a person that had a huge impact on ORNL, and a wonderful mentor and friend to me. I will miss him greatly.

Lee Riedinger

Lee Riedinger - November 13, 2017 at 10:21 AM

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“ I feel honored to have known Alex. He and Joan-Ellen were the first ones to invite us into their home when we moved to Oak Ridge. Your spirit was too dynamic to fade Alex - I know you will live on through memories and those who loved you.

Michelle Powell - November 12, 2017 at 05:53 PM

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“ Joan-Ellen: Rosemary (Burns) often spoke fondly of you and Alex. I am sure that if she were here she would join me in sending our condolences at this time of sorrow.  
Carl Bretz

Carl V. Bretz - November 12, 2017 at 01:11 PM

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“ Alex was a fine person whose loss will be deeply felt by family and friends, but none as much as you. I am holding you in my heart as you face this very difficult time. Sending you my love and condolences. Elena Bamberger

elena Bamberger - November 12, 2017 at 11:47 AM

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“ A great scientist and a great Lab Director. He always was helpful in any initiative. His management style is the kind of management needed. It will be forever in my memory.

Benjamin Carreras - November 12, 2017 at 11:31 AM

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“ Adolf King lit a candle in memory of Alexander Zucker



Adolf King - November 11, 2017 at 06:29 PM

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“ Joan-Ellen I knew Alvin for quite a few years and I will always treasure the discussions we had ranging from chemistry to music and several other topics in between. Carol and I send our deepest sympathies and offer our sincere condolences.

Adolf and Carol King

Adolf King - November 11, 2017 at 06:28 PM

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“ What a life he had !  
-----Bill Roberts

**Bill Roberts** - November 10, 2017 at 09:04 PM

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“ Sending healing prayers and comforting hugs.

We are so sorry for your loss, Joan Ellen.

Alex was one of our opera friends and he will be missed.

Barbara and Lutz Weber

**BARBARA M WEBER** - November 10, 2017 at 02:40 PM

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“ Joan-Ellen and family. I was very saddened to learn about Alex's passing. I consider myself very fortunate that our paths had crossed. His impact on my professional and personal growth is undisputable. His friendship at difficult times was a gift. I consider him as a great blessing for the Oak Ridge community. Hanna Shapira, Philadelphia PA

**Hanna Shapira** - November 10, 2017 at 12:29 PM

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“ Joan-Ellen I knew Alex for many years but really got to know him while on the board at Ridgeview. His intelligence, insight, thoughtfulness, and caring attitude set the tone for our meetings. He was a very good man who made Oak Ridge a better place for all of us.

Ralph Aurin

**Ralph Aurin** - November 10, 2017 at 11:17 AM

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“ Joan Ellen and beautiful Zucker music students of mine: What an amazing family and what a heritage! I can still see (embellished with my precious memories) how proud your parents were of you when they attended events at school. My prayers and love will be coming your way during the times ahead.

Irene Fox

**Irene L Fox** - November 10, 2017 at 09:06 AM



“ Alex was an amazing man! I greatly enjoyed listening to stories of his life & sharing memories of Oak Ridge.  
I feel fortunate to have known such an intelligent & humorous man. He will be missed. My deepest condolences go out to Joan-Ellen and family.  
Donna King

**Donna King** - November 10, 2017 at 02:01 AM

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“ Joan-Ellen, Becky, Claire and Susannah, I was saddened to read of Alex's passing. He was a wonderful man and a great patriot, and his story reminded me of long forgotten memories of growing up on Orange Lane with your family. Blessings, John Horton

**John Horton** - November 09, 2017 at 10:13 PM



“ I am so sad to learn of the loss of this great man, one who left a wonderful legacy that will never be forgotten. We are all the better for his being here! My deepest condolences to Joan-Ellen and all his family. Marci Willison

**Marci Willison** - November 16, 2017 at 08:02 AM