



## Albert C. Claus

January 17, 1931 - April 9, 2022

Albert C. Claus, 91, passed away on Saturday, April 9, 2022 at his home in Vernon Hills, IL. He was born January 17, 1931 in Chicago, IL. When he was 5 his family would move to Mt. Prospect, IL. After marrying and starting a family, he would move to Vernon Hills, IL where he has lived the last 50 years. In 1952, Al received his undergraduate degree in Chemistry from Northwestern University, where he earned Phi Beta Kappa honors. In 1958, he received his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) and in 1973 a Master's degree in Mathematics from the Illinois Institute of Technology (IIT). Shortly after receiving his Ph.D. he would follow a boyhood dream to spend some time in Alaska as a visiting professor at the University of Alaska. During his summers he passed his time following his interests of hiking, mountain climbing, and photography. While visiting Camp Denali near the base of Mount McKinley he would meet Alison Smith, who would later become his bride. He returned home to Chicago to take a job and get married and spent nearly 50 years as a Professor of Physics at Loyola University. While his boys were growing up, he would coach little league baseball and was a Cub Scout Pack leader for many years. Al had many interests, including, radio astronomy, stamp collecting, gardening, and baseball. About 30 years ago he took a beginning machine shop class at the College of Lake County (CLC). He enjoyed it so much that he would become a fixture at CLC and an accomplished machinist.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years, Alison Claus; 2 sons, Arthur Claus and

Laurence (Katherine) Claus, 5 grandchildren, Noah, Nathan, Isaac, Leah and Grace, niece Christy Claus-Hicks (Jeremy), nephew Walter (Melissa) Claus and several great nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his 3 brothers, Robert, Laurence and Richard Claus.

A memorial gathering will be held from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Thursday, May 12, 2022 at Burnett-Dane Funeral Home, 120 W. Park Ave. (Rt. 176, one block west of Milwaukee Ave.) in Libertyville. For info: 847-362-3009 or share a memory at [www.burnettdane.com](http://www.burnettdane.com).

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you make a donation in memory of Albert to support the Department of Physics at Loyola University Chicago. Gifts may be given online at [www.luc.edu/claus](http://www.luc.edu/claus), or a check can be mailed to Loyola University of Chicago, Gift Processing, P.O. Box 4336, Carol Stream, IL 60122-4336. Checks should be made payable to "Loyola University Chicago." Please note "Claus – Physics" in the memo line.

# Previous Events

## Memorial Gathering

MAY 12. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Burnett-Dane Funeral Home  
120 West Park Avenue  
Libertyville, IL 60048  
(847) 362-3009

# Tribute Wall



“ *Rupert lit a candle in memory of Albert C. Claus*



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**Rupert** - May 12, 2025 at 10:11 AM

WN

“ Dear Alison,

*I want to convey my sincere condolences to you and your family on the loss of Al. He was a great friend for decades - ever since he arrived at Loyola around 1960. I took 4 semester physics courses from him in 1961-1963. Al was unique for a scientist because of his wide range of interests. He was a great teacher, a great motivator, and a great person. I very much enjoyed his courses and having the pleasure of knowing him. After I joined the Dean's Advisory Council I traveled to LU and was able to meet with him on occasions. My wife Carole traveled with me to Chicago occasionally. On one trip Al drove down to LU from Vernon Hills on a Sunday to meet with Carole and me, which Carole and I enjoyed and appreciated very much, On another such trip another former LU physics student, Ken Patocki, gave a physics seminar at LU on his experiences at the Johns Hopkins Laboratory designing a NASA mission to orbit the planet Mercury - the kind of difficult challenge Al taught his students to take on and on which to succeed. I once had a telephone conversation with him on geophysics and on our energy problem. If I recollect correctly, Al was sufficiently interested in both issues that he eventually taught courses in both.*

*Best wishes,  
Bill Nellis*

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**William Nellis** - May 11, 2022 at 05:11 PM

AN

“ Dear Alison and family,  
*So sorry for your loss, Albert clearly lived an amazing life; how blessed you were to have him in your life for so many years.*

*Sincerely,  
Ann Maine*

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**Ann** - May 10, 2022 at 05:48 PM

LC

“ In 2016 I wrote my dad a letter- it was a long letter so I am just attaching the last paragraph, as it summed everything up...

*"To say you are my hero would be an understatement, but let's leave it to that. I owe much of who I am to you and mom. I can only hope that one day my five children can look to me with similar sentiments.*

*To my father, hero and friend,  
Love,  
Laurence"*

*My father passed away peacefully, at home, where he wanted to be.*

*On behalf of my mom, brother, and I, thank you to all who have reached out and will reach out with your well wishes and prayers. You have made these early days without my dad easier to bear and reminded us of how special he was.*

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**Laurence Claus** - April 15, 2022 at 01:41 AM