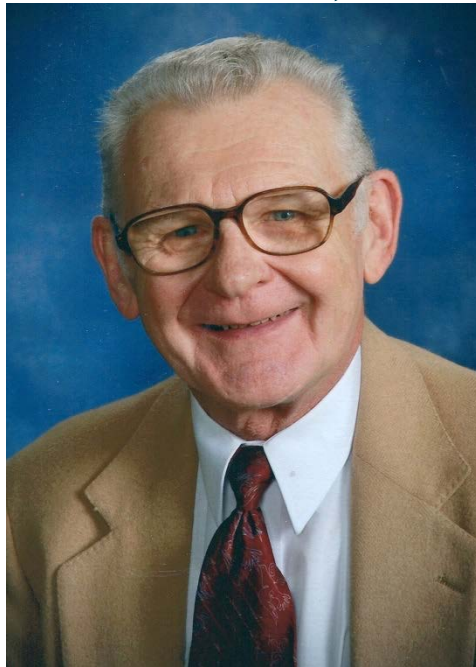


Alvin W. Czanderna, 1930—2023



Alvin Warren Czanderna, 93, of San Antonio, TX died peacefully in his residence on Monday, June 5, 2023. Al, as he was known, was born on May 27, 1930, in La Porte, IN and was the second son of Walter S. and Alvina M. W. Koch Czanderna. Walter was born in Straconka, Poland in 1903 and immigrated to the U.S. in 1912, and Alvina was born in Kouts, IN in 1902. Al was baptized and confirmed on June 7, 1943, at St. John's Evangelical Lutheran Church in La Porte, IN. His confirmation verse was: "But grow in grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. (2 Peter 3:18)." He indeed grew in knowledge and boldly confessed his Christian faith during his entire life. He also exhibited the expected gifts from the Holy Spirit, i.e., love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control (Galatians 5:22—23), other verses commonly used at the rite of confirmation.

Al attended grammar school in Melvin, MI through grade 3 until 1938; he then attended public schools in La Porte until he graduated from La Porte High School in 1947. With money he saved from delivering up to 400 daily newspapers from 1942—48, he furthered his education with a BS in Metallurgical Engineering with distinction in June 1951, and, after his Air Force service, a Ph. D. in physical chemistry in August 1957, both from Purdue University, W. Lafayette, IN. From June 1951 until February 1953, he served in the U. S. Air Force, mostly at Wright-Patterson AFB, Dayton, OH where he worked as a physical metallurgist. His service entitled him to the GI bill that helped support him and his family from 1953-57.

Al's professional career after 1957 included serving 8 years as a research scientist with Union Carbide Corporation in Parma, OH from 1957 to 1963 and S. Charleston, WV from 1963—65. He joined the faculty at Clarkson College, Potsdam, NY in 1965, and was named a tenured full professor of physics in 1968. He combined research and teaching at Clarkson until 1978 during which time he guided 6 students to their Ph. D.

and 11 to their M. S. in Physics. Al was invited and accepted a position as visiting scientist at the prestigious Fritz-Haber Institut, W. Berlin, Germany during his sabbatical year from 1971-72. While at Clarkson, he served as a consultant to 10 major US Corporations and was invited to lecture by many institutions. Al was recruited by the Solar Energy Research Institute [SERI, which became the National Renewable Energy Lab (NREL) in 1991], Golden CO in 1978. SERI named him a Research Fellow in 1983, a position he held until he retired in December 1999. He provided supervision for up to 15 professionals during his 22 years of service to SERI/NREL. Al was a people builder. For himself, his philosophy was to perform all that he did to his maximum potential. Not surprisingly, he encouraged and expected the same commitment from those he supervised in any capacity, but especially from the 8 Ph.D. and 15 M.S. thesis students [6 additional graduate students he supervised at (SERI/NREL)] he prepared for further professional work.

With 70 different coauthors, he published 258 articles in peer-reviewed journals or invited chapters in books. He personally delivered 454 papers at technical society meetings, or as invited lectures (about 150) for academic, industrial, or government laboratory audiences. More details about his professional career will be published in obituaries in the journals of the American Chemical Society (ACS), American Physical Society (APS), American Vacuum Society International (AVS), Electrochemical Society (ECS), ASTM International (formerly American Society for Testing and Materials), National Fenestration Rating Council (NFRC), and New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS). For recognition of his achievements, Al was chosen in 2000 to hold an Arthur Adamson Award for Distinguished Service in the Advancement of Surface Chemistry, to be a distinguished graduate from the Dept. of Chemistry, Purdue University in 2004, and an Honorary Member of the AVS in 2006. He was also a fellow of the NYAS, APS, and AVS. Al served as a volunteer in many capacities for all the technical societies, except for the NYAS. Dr. Czanderna was recognized internationally for his research in the field of surface science, which requires advanced knowledge in chemistry, physics, and materials science.

Al met his wife of 59 years, Lucile (Lucy) Jean Delp (deceased in 2012) at Concordia Lutheran Church, Dayton, OH on June 15, 1952; they were married there on Feb. 14, 1953. Lucy followed her husband's career moves from 1953 to 1999, and they lived and attended churches in Dayton, OH (Al was stationed at WPAFB, OH), New Kensington, PA (7 mon.), W. Lafayette, IN (4 y), Parma Heights, OH (6 y), S. Charleston, WV (2 y), Potsdam, NY (12.5 y), Denver, CO (28 y), Lakewood, CO from 2006—2017 (2012 for Lucy), and Al at Shepherd of the Hills, San Antonio, TX from 2017 until his death in 2023. For his post communion prayers, he started with v. 9 of Hymn number 598 in The Lutheran Hymnal and continued with prayers for others important in his life. He served in many capacities in the various churches, most notably as the President of two congregations, a member of four church councils and as an Elder in four of them, He also taught a number of Bible Classes, and was a member of 9 Voters Assemblies. As a father, he led his family in daily devotions as well as taking them to church weekly.

From 1973-86, he was elected to serve on the Board of Higher Education (BHE) [aka as the Board for Professional Education] of the LCMS (Lutheran Church Missouri Synod); he was Vice-Chairman (79—81) and Chairman (81—83), In 1973, The BHE

developed policies for the governance of four Synodical Seminaries and 12 Colleges and the other responsibilities placed on the BHE by the LCMS.

Al was a beloved and devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend to everyone he met. Al also enjoyed doing his own yardwork, gardening, and playing games, especially with his children and grandchildren. Beginning in 1967, Lucy volunteered to serve as the Czanderna household manager. She also took their daughters to ballet classes, piano and other music lessons, and Girl Scouts. Her willingness to assume these responsibilities permitted Al to work professionally from 60—80 h week, which greatly enhanced his professional contributions and income; the latter, of course, was extremely helpful to his family. Al and Lucy encouraged and supported or offered to support their children in pursuing their education beyond high school. From July 2012—July 2014, Al prepared a detailed family history beginning with Lucy's and his grandparents. They both benefited from the opportunities to pursue the American Dream because of decisions made by their grandparents to immigrate to the United States. Complete copies are available from either of Al's daughters.

Al had an adequate choir voice (tenor) and sang in 6 church choirs from 1942 to 1996 and resumed in 2014 with the Joyful Noise choir at Bethlehem Lutheran in Lakewood, CO and Shepherd of the Hills in San Antonio, TX in 2017. Al participated in athletics from 1942 until 1996. He ran cross-country (two varsity letters from Purdue in 1949 and 1950), track (mile, two-mile), and played softball and table tennis, the latter at a high level. Beginning in 1981, Al ran in the annual AVS 5k run until 2006 and posted a time of 19:12 at the age of 63. From 1968—1996, he ran or jogged about 50,000 miles and thereafter worked out at a fitness center in San Antonio until the Lord called him home.

Al greatly enjoyed eating out, attending concerts, plays, and other social activities with his friends. His travels included visiting 48 of the 50 United States, lecturing in 12 European countries, Canada, and vacationing in New Zealand. Al spent a year in W. Berlin, Germany (1971—1972) when he was on sabbatical leave as a visiting scientist at the internationally famous Fritz-Haber Institute.

Al is survived by his two daughters Karel Czanderna of Dubuque, IA, and Kani Nichols, San Antonio, TX, and their husbands, W. Dan Shirkey and William O. Nichols; four grandchildren, Angelika Lusterman, Wells, MN, Kurt Lusterman, Streeter, ND, Karin Sheffer, Cary, NC, and Kayla Nichols, San Antonio, TX; three great-grandchildren, Quentin Buie, and Regan and Henry Lusterman, four nephews, and about 30 cousins. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Lucy, one daughter, Kathy K. Porak, and his only brother, Walter G. Czanderna.

Relatives and Friends may attend a funeral service on June 14, 2023, 11:00am at the Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 6914 Wurzbach, San Antonio, TX 78240 with the Rev. Chris Kennedy preaching and assisted by the Rev. Douglas Bielefeldt. Interment will follow at the Ft. Sam Houston Cemetery, San Antonio, TX.

In lieu of flowers, Al desired that Memorial Contributions be made to Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church, 6914 Wurzbach Rd., San Antonio, TX, 78240 or to a charity of their choice.