

ALFRED "AL" ROY KERN



Ocean Ridge, FL - Alfred "Al" Roy Kern, beloved husband, father, grandfather and Pittsburgh businessman, age 89, passed on to be with our Lord on August 29, 2024, peacefully at home in Ocean Ridge, FL.

Born in Pittsburgh on November 30, 1934, to Leonard and Alice, Al was a 5th generation Pittsburgher whose great-great-great-grandfather immigrated from Germany in 1850 to work in the Pittsburgh steel mills. Al grew up in Sheraden [Pittsburgh] and earned a Civil Engineering Degree from the University of Pittsburgh, graduating Magna cum Laude. Upon graduating, Al immediately enlisted in the Navy where he served as a Lieutenant in the Civil Engineering Corps and was first stationed in Mayport Naval Base [Jacksonville, FL]. While in Mayport, Al met his love and wife of 61 years, Iris Matthews. After 3 years in Mayport, Al and Iris were transferred to Lualualei Naval Base in Honolulu, HI, where they started their family. After serving a 6-year tour and experiencing a brief delay from discharging due to the Cuban Missile Crisis, Al and his young family moved back to his native Pittsburgh [Moon Twp.] to work for his father, Leonard, in his construction equipment distribution business, Equipment Corporation of America [ECA].

Al was former President and Chairman of Equipment Corporation of America [ECA], based in Coraopolis, PA and was associated with the company for close to 50 years. He helped grow the company into one of the largest and most respected foundation construction equipment distributors on the East Coast.

In Al's 35 years at the helm of ECA, his philosophy was "always take care of customers first" and he transitioned the company's product offerings, specializing in foundation and hoisting equipment. He further expanded the two locations (Pittsburgh & Philadelphia) to five by adding a full-service branch in the 1970's in Upper Marlboro, MD [Washington DC], later entering in a partnership with a related business in Taunton [Boston], MA, and oversaw the purchase of Specialty Construction Equipment [now named ECA Canada] in Toronto in 1999 - thus expanding ECA's footprint. Today, ECA has 11 locations throughout North America.

Al supported and was active in the Associated Equipment Distributors, serving on AED's board and numerous committees, and other trade associations including Deep Foundations Institute [DFI], the International Association of Drilled Shaft Contractors [ASDC] and the Western Pennsylvania Contractors Association. Al also served as a district council leader and advisor to the Boy Scouts of America, was a member of the Masonic Temple, and Kiwanis. A life-long Christian, Al had belonged to Coraopolis United Methodist Church and, later, First Church of Boynton Beach.

Al's interests included reading novels and the Wall Street Journal, and he was an avid golfer, shooting his age at 74 and many times after that. Al was a long-time member of Montour Heights Country Club [Moon Township, PA], Williams Country Club [Weirton, WV], and finally, the Lost City Golf Club [Lantana, FL].

Al was predeceased by his wife, Iris, and his son, Dennis (Loraine) of Mesa, AZ. He will be greatly missed by his remaining children: Roy (Lori) of Peters Twp, PA; and Dr. Tara (Pete) Rose of Peters Twp., PA; and also, by his six grandchildren who knew and loved him as "Peepaw": Rod (Anna) and Dr Darby Kern; Nolan and Brea Kern; and Jake and Ryan Rose.

A Celebration of Life Services for family and friends will be planned for a later date.

The family requests that in lieu of flowers, memorial donations can be made to: First Church of Boynton Beach, 101 North Seacrest Boulevard, Boynton Beach, FL 33435 www.firststandfaith.org/give; or Boy Scouts of America - Laurel Highlands Council, 1275 Bedford Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15219 <https://donations.scouting.org>.

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