



## Dr. George W. Zobrist, Ph.D

February 13, 1934 - February 2, 2025

Dr. George W. Zobrist, Ph.D.

February 13th 1934 - February 2nd 2025

George passed away peacefully on February 2nd less than two weeks from his 91st birthday. He was at his new home in Sikeston, MO surrounded by family. He was born in Highland, IL and grew up on Pestalozzi St. in St. Louis with his parents George and Lily Zobrist. He attended Roosevelt High School and was inducted in the school's Hall of Fame in 2009.

After graduation, George entered the United States Air Force where he went thru Radar Bombsight School and served with the B-47 outfit at MacDill AFB in Tampa, Fl. He also served on tours in England and Morocco where he worked on the flight line as a bombsite mechanic during the Korean War. While he was stationed at MacDill he met Freida (Freda) Rich. Upon his return from Morocco in 1955 they married at the Bethany Baptist church in Florida. They were able to celebrate 69 years of marriage together on March 29th, 2024. In addition, they were able to celebrate their 90th and 91st birthdays together in Branson, Mo in February 2024, one of their favorite places. After getting married they moved to Columbia, MO to start their life together.

George attended the University of Missouri at Columbia receiving a Bachelor of Science in Software Engineering degree in 1958. As an undergraduate

George also received the “Young Engineer of the Year” award. After graduating they moved to Ridgecrest, CA where George worked for the US Naval Ordnance Test Station. In 1959, they moved to Kansas where George attended the University of Wichita obtaining a Master of Science in Software Engineering degree in 1961 while working at Boeing. They returned to Missouri where George then received his PhD in Electrical Engineering in 1965 while working as an Instructor and Professor. In 1969, George moved his family to Florida where he was a Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Miami and the University of South Florida in Tampa. In 1971, he worked as a visiting Research Scientist at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where the family lived for a year. In 1976, the family moved from Florida to Toledo, OH where he was Chairman of the Department of Electrical Engineering and then briefly worked as a Director at the engineering consulting firm of S.S.O.E. In 1982, George returned to Missouri as a Professor of Computer Science at the Graduate Center of the University of Missouri-Rolla in St. Louis, transferring to the Rolla campus in 1985 where he became Chairman of the Department of Computer Science. George retired from UMR as Professor Emeritus in 1999, although he continued to teach and consult part-time for many years.

Besides his career as a professor, George spent over 10 years as a consultant for NASA at the Kennedy Space Center where he worked on ground based communications for the Skylab program. He was also a consultant at the Prestolite Corporation where he evaluated D.C. motors for the development of electric vehicles. In addition, he was a consultant for Oak Ridge National Laboratories in Tennessee, Boeing, IBM and the US Defense Communications Agency.

George’s career took him around the world conducting seminars, workshops and tutorials in Brazil, Russia, South Africa, Yugoslavia, Turkey, Germany, Denmark, England, Scotland, Wales and Canada on the topics of

Microprocessors, Software Engineering & Metrics and Computer Aided Design.

George was Editor-in Chief of several journals including IEEE and was the author, co-author and contributor to dozens of books and articles. He also served as a Commissioner for the Computer Science Accreditation Board. In his wide and varied experience as an author, consultant and educator George received numerous Commendations and Awards in recognition of his contributions to Science and Technology throughout his career.

In addition to his career, George loved to hunt, fish, garden and drink beer. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Rolla, where he was a past president and active in charity work. He was also a member of the American Legion of Highland, IL and a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Rolla, where he had served as a Deacon. George will be most remembered as a loving husband, father and grandfather, great grandfather, cherishing spending time with his family.

George was preceded in death by his wife Freida G. Zobrist nee Rich, parents George H. Zobrist and Lillian C. Zobrist nee Augustin, his infant daughter Christina A. Zobrist and his granddaughter Tori A. Zobrist.

He is survived by his children, daughter Barbara J. Zobrist of Los Angeles, California, son George W. Zobrist, of Fountain, Florida and daughter Jean (Tom) Morgan, of St. Louis. His grandchildren Jessica A. Forsythe of St. Peters, Kelly J. (Trey) Sloan of Sikeston, Thomas A. (Stephanie) Morgan of St. Peters and Timothy A. (Kristen) Morgan of St. Peters and his great grandchildren Jocelyn, Zoey, Zaiden, Harper, Clara, Wesley, Avery, Linley and Rori,

Visitation and services to be held at Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home in Highland, Illinois February 22nd at 11 am. He will be laid to rest at Highland City Cemetery next to his beloved wife Fredi. A reception at Diamond Mineral Springs, Grantfork, Illinois to follow.

Memorials may be made to the American Legion Post #439(Highland, IL) or the Rotary Club of Rolla.

# Cemetery Details

## Highland City Cemetery

12301 Koepfli Lane  
Highland, IL 62249

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB **22**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Spengel-Boulanger Funeral Home - Highland  
1501 9th Street  
P.O. Box 187  
Highland, IL 62249  
(618) 654-2133  
[info@spengel-boulanger.com](mailto:info@spengel-boulanger.com)

# Tribute Wall



“ Paul & Angie Napier purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Dr. George W. Zobrist, Ph.D.



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**Paul & Angie Napier** - February 28, 2025 at 08:48 AM



“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Dr. George W. Zobrist, Ph.D.



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February 19, 2025 at 07:28 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of Dr. George W. Zobrist, Ph.D.

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February 19, 2025 at 07:28 PM

JS

“ Not surprisingly, it was my Cousin George who was the first to introduce me to the word and world of computers back in the 1950s, and later in life it was the internet that kept us connected since we lived in different states. Even better, phone conversations kept us close as we could hear each other's voices and 'Cousin' before our names. Cousin George always was modest about his numerous career accomplishments and travels; the topic that filled our conversations over the years was family - current family as well as reminiscences of parents, aunts, uncles, and other cousins which Cousin George always tended to incorporate into our conversations. He often began, "I remember the time when....." and the ensuing story was dotted with his unforgettable chuckles. Family was something we both shared and enjoyed; family occupied our hearts--and he will continue to occupy mine.

*Cheerio back to you, Cousin George...*

*With love from your Cousin Judy (Reinacher) and John Sherrell who felt fortunate to become a cousin by marriage*

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**Judy Sherrell** - February 19, 2025 at 02:30 PM

MC

“ Mike & Elaine Caldwell purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Dr. George W. Zobrist, Ph.D.



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**Mike & Elaine Caldwell** - February 18, 2025 at 11:32 AM

LM

“ *Love, Kathy and Terry Moorman purchased the Serene Retreat for the family of Dr. George W. Zobrist, Ph.D.*



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**Love, Kathy and Terry Moorman** - February 17, 2025 at 07:08 PM