Albert Buettner(1933 - 2012)

Buettner, Albert

Greece: October 3, 2012. Predeceased by his sister, Mary Buettner; parents, Albert & Evelyn Buettner; grandson, Alexander Buettner. Survived by his wife, Joyce (Ellis) Buettner; children, Brian (Terry) Buettner, Carol (James) Vetro & David (Catherine) Buettner; grandchildren, Mary Catherine, Sarah (John), Laura (Andrew), Amy, Leah, Jacqueline & Amanda; great-grandson, Gabriel; sister, Faith (Larry) Walsh; mother-in-law, Belle Ellis; niece & nephew, Amy (Brian) Hall & Ryan (Pam) Walsh. For more information about Albert, visit www.aliferemembered.com

Albert's visitation will be held 2-4 & 7-9 on Friday at the funeral home, 1411 Vintage Ln (between Rte 390 & Long Pond Rd). His Funeral Mass will be celebrated 9:30 AM on Saturday at St. Mary's Church, 15 St. Mary's Place. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Bartolomeo & Perotto
FUNERAL HOME, INC.

Published in Rochester Democrat And Chronicle on October 4, 2012

ALBERT V. BUETTNER

Bert Buettner has a sense of excitement about his work and new opportunities to solve challenging problems. Born in New York City in 1933, he grew up on Long Island and commuted to Regis H.S. in Manhattan. The course work there was very demanding, but rewarded him with excellent preparation in math and science. His developing and printing high school yearbook photos gave him experience to do this commercially to work his way through college. He credits his father, a carpenter/craftsman who could do complex calculations in his head, for teaching him how to do research and approach practical problems, such as car repair. His mother taught reading to him and to groups of students in their home. He earned a B.S. in Chemistry at Fordham University ('55) and a Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry under Prof. Robert Livingston at University of Minnesota ('60). His thesis project involved building a flash photolysis spectroscopy unit to study the kinetics of excited states in acridine/phenazine solutions. Sir George Porter, an expert in the field, was impressed to hear Bert report on cracking a very difficult problem.

In 1961 Bert joined Bill West's Phototheory Group, which reported directly to Kodak Research Lab's director, W. T. (Bunny) Hansen. In private talks, Bunny would ask what Bert was currently excited about. His flash photolysis studies showed that color dye images in film could be stabilized against fading by incorporation of dihydroxynaphthol. On excitation by light this scavenged the entrained oxygen and dry gelatin was very impermeable to more oxygen entering. This finding enabled color prints and large Colorama displays to resist fading and led to Bert's early promotion to Senior Staff. Other studies involved solar energy conversion, dye excitation mechanisms, and dye lasers. He was the first to measure a radiationless transition from an excited singlet state—work which laser pioneer Sorokin found very helpful in developing dye laser theory.

A favorite focus was determining the photosensitizing mechanism for electrophotographic processes useful in printers and copiers. It was unusual but very effective to be doing basic research as the "group guru" in a lab devoted to applied electrophotography. He was able to describe photosensitizing decay processes in film and electrophotographic charge/discharge processes. His resulting patent showed the power of computer algorithms and mathematical formulas to predict printer outcomes, such as color balance and exposure control, for changes made in photosensitive elements. Crucial to this work was the use of random numbers in computer modeling processes he learned in an MIT sabbatical.

In 1998 Bert's KRL group was spun off to Heidelberg USA, where his basic research on applied problems led to a method for complete process control of the Nextpress Printer. He and Larry Contois won an award for discovering that using higher charging levels allowed use of less photoconductor. Bert retired in 2003.

Bert met his wife Joyce at University of Minnesota, where she was a student in a chem class he was teaching. They enjoy travel— especially to Italy, Greece, and Paris—and photography. His color slides won awards from the Kodak Camera Club. They have three children – Brian, Carol, and David – and seven grandchildren. In the turbulent 60's, Bert was a vice president of the Friends of Fight and also VP of the Catholic Interracial Council. He sang in a rock choir at Immaculate Conception Church.

Bert is still applying calculations using random numbers to invest in the stock market. Throughout his career Bert feels he had wonderful opportunities, mentors, bosses, and coworkers and was lucky to be paid for doing what he enjoyed.

J. Dolf Bass