



Alexander Johannes Mandl

December 14, 1943 - March 25, 2022

Alex J. Mandl, 78, passed away peacefully on March 25, 2022, in Easton, Maryland. He is survived by his wife, Susan, his daughter, Melanie, and Melanie's mother, Nancy Mandl. Alex was well-known as a notable Austrian American businessman whose keen intellect and strategic vision led to the transformation of the shipping and telecom industries.

Alex was born to William and Charlotte Mandl in Vienna, Austria, in 1943. He spent his early years in Inzersdorf (a suburb of Vienna), and later attended school at Stiftsgymnasium Melk. His summers were often spent with extended family in Ramseiden, Austria - a small village in the Alps near Salzburg. In his teens he moved to Ojai, California, when his father accepted the headmaster position at Happy Valley School (now Besant Hill School of Happy Valley). His education continued at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, as an undergraduate and U.C. Berkeley for his MBA (Master of Business Administration).

Alex's amazing work ethic began early on. He often joked about gaining "business experience" in publishing (selling Great Books door-to-door), oil (pumping gas at a remote location between Los Angeles and Las Vegas), retail (selling menswear), and steel (spray painting metal panels).

Upon graduation from Berkeley in 1969, he began his business career in

earnest. He was recruited by Boise Cascade in Boise, Idaho, as a merger and acquisition analyst. For the next 11 years, he held various financial positions which culminated in his being named assistant treasurer.

In 1980, Alex moved to Jacksonville Florida to join Seaboard Coast Line Industries, as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. After Seaboard merged with Chessie Systems to become CSX Corp., Alex was named Senior Vice President. Between 1988 and 1991, he served as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Sea-Land Services, Inc., the world's leading global provider of ocean transport and distribution services. In less than three years, under his leadership, the company would experience a major turnaround in profit, revenues, and innovation.

In 1991, Alex joined AT&T in New Jersey as EVP & CFO and became President in 1994. During his tenure at AT&T, he strategically negotiated the landmark McCaw Cellular merger. At the time, the deal was the fifth largest merger in U.S. history and changed AT&T by giving the company immediate access to important information age technology.

In 1996, excited by potential growth and innovative technology, Alex boldly left AT&T to start Teligent, a fixed wireless technology company that intended to provide a groundbreaking alternative to standard phone service. He was later recruited in 2002 to lead another turnaround candidate, Gemplus in Marseilles, France. In three years, the company went from a position of heavy losses and declining revenues to becoming the world leader in smart card technologies. In 2006, he negotiated a strategic merger between Gemplus and Axalto, resulting in Gemalto, a world-wide leader in digital security. Alex then commuted regularly from Washington to France in his role as non-executive chairman until 2019.

Alex has served on multiple boards throughout the years and frequently

became Lead Director, Chairman or Non-Executive Chairman. Other boards on which he served include Dell Computer, Genpact Limited, Hewitt Associates, Horizon Lines, In-Q-Tel, Pfizer Inc., R1 RCM Inc., Visteon Corporation, and Warner Lambert.

Though his list of worldly accomplishments was impressive, his character was even more impressive. Alex was generous, thoughtful, kind, ethical, smart, curious, loyal, faithful, interested, resolute – the list could go on and on. He made other people feel important and treated everyone with respect.

He was extremely proud of his U.S. citizenship. He always reserved a special place in his heart for his birthplace and stayed close with his extended family in Austria. He had a passion for world history and loved to explore historical sites around the globe, either in person or by watching documentaries. He also loved hosting gatherings with friends and family, either at his and Susan's home in Easton, or at a favorite restaurant. He was always fond of a good table, filled with the best food and wine and many an evening was capped off by "solving the world's problems" over a bowl of ice cream.

He will be sorely missed and will remain in our hearts forever. Rest in peace, Alex.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations to charities near and dear to him: Talbot Hospice, CASA of the Mid-Shore, the Avalon Theatre in Easton, MD, or your favorite charity.

There will be a celebration of his life on Sunday, April 3, at Scossa restaurant, in Easton from 3-7pm.

Previous Events

celebration of life

APR 3. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Scossa Restaurant
Easton, MD 21601

Tribute Wall

JA

“ Susan, while I was not acquainted with Alex personally, we attended the same university, and I do recall his confident stride through the university halls. He looked to be a young man who somehow had a sense of what the marvelous future would hold.

After college, I'd kept in touch with his father who was my majors counselor. He occasionally spoke of Alex and was truly so happy about his son's success. As I said, I didn't know Alex when we attended university, but I have imagined (and the obituary confirms) Alex inherited his father's sense of humor and his kind heart. I am so sorry for your loss.

Jill Anderson - November 24, 2025 at 05:16 PM

AH

“ Dear Susan Mandl, Sorry to hear of your loss. We did meet at a Happy Valley School reunion a decade or more ago. I remember Alex from those school days, but we were not friends. Alex struck me as very sophisticated, European. But his father, the principal at the time, I remember as a strict, demanding teacher. Arthur Hughes, New York City. arthurhughes.net

Arthur P Hughes - April 18, 2024 at 04:09 PM



“ Alexander Johannes Mandl

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ Alexander Johannes Mandl

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ Alexander Johannes Mandl

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ Dear Susan, so sorry for your loss. Spent some great times with Alex in Vienna and Prague and really thought the world of him both personally and professionally. After many years I bumped into him in Singapore at a Gemalto event and we reminisced for an hour on our ATT days. My sincere condolences and wishes for peace to you and the family. John Slamecka

John V. Slamecka - July 13, 2022 at 06:44 AM



John,
Thank you for sharing your times with Alex as well the lovely compliments you shared. Your lovely comments help keep smiles on my face during a difficult time. Thank you for sharing them with me and others on this site!
Warm regards,
Susan
Susan Mandl

Susan Mandl - July 19, 2022 at 05:33 PM

BM

“ Susan. I am so sorry
For your loss.

You may not remember me but my husband Paul and I greeted you and Alex as new members of Riverbend CC on a random Friday night.

I previously worked for Motorola Ventures and immediately recognized you as new members and your ATT&T and Teligent connection.

As I read the announcement from Riverbend today I was impressed by Alex's accomplishments of which I was well aware. But more so by the words about his love of family and how he made everyone he met feel important and special. As you know riverbend is filled with successful people. Alex was unique in being himself Hard to find these days

Again so sorry for your loss. You had the best.

Beat wishes going forward for you and your family

*Betty Monica
Great Falls Va
Bmonica33@aol.com*

betty monica - April 05, 2022 at 12:24 AM

SM

Thank you SO much for your wonderful acknowledgement of Alex. He was my "better half " and I miss him tremendously and am very blessed to have been his "other half"!!!!

Susan Mandl - April 24, 2022 at 09:52 PM

SM

I also remember you! Thank you so much for your lovely sharing your lovely thoughts about Alex! He was my better half!!!

Susan Mandl - June 25, 2022 at 03:47 PM

BR

“ *I was Alex’s executive assistant at Sea-Land Service. He was a great boss and I was sorry to see him leave. RIP, Alex.*

Bonnie Rossi - April 03, 2022 at 01:01 PM

SM

Thank you for taking the time to leave a note. He has spoken of you very highly!

Susan Mandl - June 25, 2022 at 05:37 PM



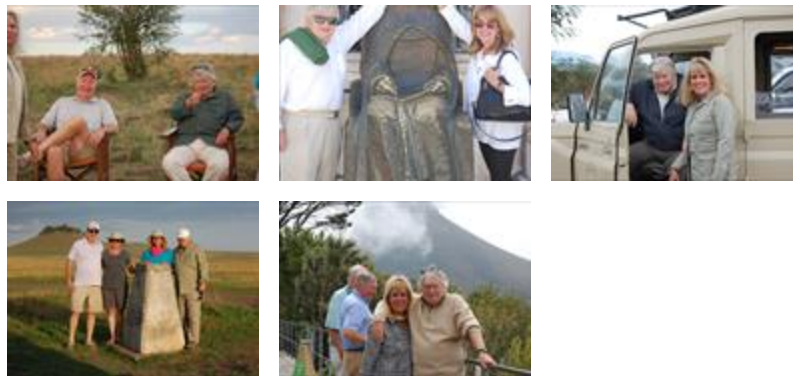
“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Alexander Johannes Mandl.*



April 02, 2022 at 10:47 AM

DH

“ *9 files added to the album Memories Album*



Diane Hanna - March 31, 2022 at 07:56 AM

LS

*A man of great substance and character and always up for a bit of fun!
We will miss you Alex! Lily Stephano*

lillian stephano - April 02, 2022 at 05:39 PM

CR

“ Alex was a friend from 1988 until his passing. He was an incredible leader and always set the very best example for his teammates. As a Director of Horizon Lines (HRZ NYSE) Alex always asked the most insightful questions and sought to simplify solutions. I'll always treasure every minute we spent working together. I will miss his professionalism, loyalty and friendship. Chuck Raymond

Chuck Raymond - March 28, 2022 at 11:53 AM

SM

Thank you for sharing your thoughts! He enjoyed his time with Horizon Lines and spoke highly of the senior team!

Susan Mandl - April 26, 2022 at 11:34 PM