



## Alexander Rossi

August 6, 1922 - February 19, 2012

ROSSI, Alexander

Was born August 6, 1922, in Santa Barbara. His parents were the late Frank and Mart Bertino Rossi.

Alex attended Santa Barbara schools, excelling in academic studies and athletics, graduating from Santa Barbara High School in January, 1941, as president of the senior class. He was a member of the National Honor Society. He played varsity football for the team known as the Golden Tornado which won the CIF championship at the Coliseum in Los Angeles in December, 1940. The Santa Barbara High School Alumni Association honored him as Distinguished Alumnus in 1995.

After graduation, he entered the University of California, Berkeley, in the fall of 1941 with engineering as a major. World War II having started, he enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps (as it was then called), in 1942. Called to active duty in the Army Air Corps in February, 1943, he was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant and a pilot for two- and four-engine aircraft. Subsequently, he was an instructor of two- engine B-25 aircraft.

Following the war, Alex re-entered Berkeley, graduating with a B.S. degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1950, followed by a M.S. in Industrial Engineering

in 1951. He taught engineering for UC Extension Division in addition to his work in industry.

The space program beckoned and he joined the Douglas Aircraft Co. He became Chief Design Engineer in the NASA Delta program and part of that program until retirement. He was on special assignment as consultant to the European space program, headquartered at Bremen, Germany, for two years. Other assignments were in the South Pacific and England.

Upon retirement, the Rossis returned to Santa Barbara County and continued the family project of restoration of Ballard Adobes (Santa Barbara County Landmark #20). Alex was active in community projects, president of Los Olivos Improvement Assn., involved in Los Olivos Days, and later a founding member of Preservation of Los Olivos. He served as Junior and Senior Wardens at St. Mark's in the Valley Episcopal Church.

Alex and Dale Rhodehamel met in Santa Barbara Junior High School and were married in Santa Barbara. They recently celebrated their 69th wedding anniversary after a long and happy marriage.

He is survived by his wife, Dale. Their children are Jon Alexander (Patricia), Christopher Jaime (Linda), and Douglas Dale (Kim). Grandchildren are Michael (Debbie), Amy Solomon (Cam), Lauren Reynolds (Tom), Christopher (Randi), Kate Rossi, and Claire Cooper. Great grandchildren are Jon Rossi and West Solomon.

In accordance with Alex's wishes, there will be no service. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may recognize the services provided by Serenity House, Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Barbara, 222 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara, CA 93101, or the Visiting Nurse and Hospice Care of Santa Ynez Valley, 436 First St., Suite 202, Solvang, CA 93463, or Santa

Ynez Valley Cottage Hospital.

# Tribute Wall

AJ

“ Dear Dale:

*Some kindnesses in life are never forgotten. Helen and I wish to extend our condolences to you and your family at this time over your loss. Alex's brother Anthony was a close friend of ours for many years, and through him we had the pleasure of meeting the two of you and partaking of your generous nature. First and foremost taking us and our friends through the tour of your residence, and the openness you extended us while we were there. We'll always remember you for allowing us to pick your olive trees in March of 2001, and I might add that I've never found a better crop of trees since.*

*We sincerely hope that this experience will mellow for you in time, for we are certain that the memories you shared together will never be forgotten.*

*Al & Helen Jermagian  
Santa Barbara*

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**Al & Helen Jermagian** - February 22, 2012 at 06:02 PM

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**amy rossi** - February 20, 2012 at 09:11 PM

TG

“ My wife Gail and I were sorry to hear about the loss of Alex to his wife and family. I worked with Alex a number of years starting in 1957 when we came to California from Pittsburg Pa. (I always suspected that Alex thought we were some strange creatures from another planet). Alex did not talk much about his distinguished background and I was surprised to read so much in his obituary. Dale may remember that on one occasion he invited us to their home in Santa Monica after our marriage in 1958. I last saw Alex in Huntington Beach in 1977/78 when we discussed his plan to work in Bremen Germany. Gail and I and our family had just returned from working and living 3 years in Torino Italy and part time in Bremen Germany. He inquired about our experience and how we enjoyed the life and work. I was aware that Alex's family originated in a small town north of Torino and we visited there on one occasion but I do not recall the name of the town.

*We wish his wife and family well,  
Ted Gallo  
res07m1v@verizon.net*

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**Ted Gallo** - February 19, 2012 at 01:44 PM