



## Albert Aldinger

April 16, 1944 - February 12, 2016

IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, family requests memorials on behalf of Al Aldinger to Make-A-Wish [www.wish.org/donate](http://www.wish.org/donate) or the charity of your choice.

Albert "Al" John Aldinger, born on April 16, 1944 in Ladysmith, WI and formerly of Two Harbors, MN, passed away on February 12, 2016 at his home in Lancaster, TX.

Al graduated from Two Harbors High School in 1962 and was drafted into the Army, and stationed in Germany. Upon return, he married his loving wife Nancy Ann Quist on May 25, 1968. Al's passion for aviation led to a career in aerial patrol, flying power lines and pipelines based in Oklahoma and Texas. By the end of his career, he retired with 40,000 hours of flight time. Al built his own airplane which he enjoyed flying and teaching his son and daughter-in-law to fly. In 2005, Al and Nancy bought a RV and spent the next 10 years exploring the country, spending summers in Brimson, MN.

He is survived by wife Nancy (Quist) Aldinger; son Craig Aldinger and wife Lauren; mother Olive Aldinger; siblings Sharon Hellman, Kenny Aldinger, Barb Merritt and husband Randy, Mark Aldinger and wife Julie; sister-in-law Florney Koss; and many nieces and nephews. Al was preceded in death by father Walt Aldinger; brothers-in-law Dick Hellman, Bob Quist, and Bruce Quist.

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

FEB **19**. 10:00 AM (CT)

St Francis of Assisi Catholic  
1537 Rogers Ave  
Lancaster, TX 75146

# Tribute Wall

AL


“ <https://www.eaa.org/en/eea/eea-news-and-aviation-news/news/03-03-2016-gone-west-al-aldinger>

aldinger - March 08, 2016 at 09:38 PM

AL

“ Here's a link to an article that I got published in EAA for my dad: EAA (Experimental Aircraft Association) - Gone West: Al Aldinger <https://www.eaa.org/en/eea/eea-news-and-aviation-news/news/03-03-2016-gone-west-al-aldinger>

aldinger - March 03, 2016 at 08:39 PM

 Casey Almanza Stuckey

“ I'm so sorry I didn't hear about this sooner or I would have been there to attend Al's funeral. Al was a great man with a big ole heart who never had anything bad to say. He was a great man who married a great woman. He would do anything for you and was always there to help you if you needed anything. Words cannot express how I feel at the moment. I'm so sorry to hear about his passing. Nancy we love you I'm here if you need anything at all. Fond memories of him always.

Casey Almanza Stuckey - March 02, 2016 at 04:27 PM

KO

“ Nancy, my thoughts and prayers are with you @ this difficult time. From Kitty Sanderson Olson Xoxo

Kathleen sanderson Olson - February 22, 2016 at 07:15 PM

LA

“My name is Lauren Merville Aldinger, and I had the great pleasure of marrying Craig Aldinger 20 years ago. Little did I know I’d be joining this amazing family... and that I’d get such a wonderful father-in-law.

After 20 years, what do I know about Al? Well, Al is – quite simply – ingenious. As most of you know, he could repair anything. In fact, he could build anything too... and had some creative ways to solve problems that you and I would never think of. One of my favorite solutions of his is the “composite fingernail” he built. Al had trouble with his thumbnail splitting. So, he got a small piece of fiberglass cloth, some epoxy and sanded his nail a little. He applied the fiberglass and epoxy, let it cure, then filed it into an appropriate fingernail shape. I was simultaneously in awe and amused. If you look around his house, his RV, his airplane... you will find all kinds of creative, innovative solutions to problems you and I never thought about.

I used to call those kinds of solutions “Al-Rigging” or “MacGyvering,” In fact, MacGyver has nothing on Al... they should have named that TV show after him... MacAldinger! You know those TV commercials about the most interesting man in the world? Well that guy looks up to Al.

Not only was Al ingenious, he was a prolific pilot and mechanic. I know there are a lot of pilots here today, but for those of you not familiar with flying, we measure milestones in aviation by the number of hours flown. Let me give you some context:

- I am a private pilot, I don’t fly for a living. Craig and I have piloted back and forth from Dallas to Seattle in Al’s airplane four times. I currently have roughly 200 hours of flight time
- I’m sure most of you remember Sully Sullenberger’s famous and skillful landing of the US Airways A320 on the Hudson river after losing both engines. Sully is considered a very experienced pilot and he retired shortly after that incident. At the time he had 19,663 hours
- Al had his last flight in Spring of last year. I don’t think he even recorded those hours. Based on his pilot’s log, which is several thick binders, Al Aldinger had 39,950 hours. Think about that. That’s the

*equivalent of flying an airplane all day and all night for 1,664 days. Or 55 months, or 4.5 years.*

*I'm sure everyone knows he built his own airplane. It took 10 years to finish and he would invite friends and family to help out every now and then. He finished it in 1996, the same year Craig and I were married. Tail number is N964AL... 96 for the year, and then 4 Al. It is well built and engineered. Eventually, Craig and I both got our pilot's licenses and Al taught us to fly the Cozy. He was such a masterful mechanic and there were many modifications that improved the performance of the airplane. He was so smart, he could remember all the special sequences for pre and post flight. Craig got to work capturing everything on a checklist for us to follow. As you can imagine, it's several pages long.*

*Also, as you can imagine, Al designed the Cozy to be flown by a 6'2" skinny man. For Craig, this works well. For the 5'2" curvy gal, this was a problem. I tried to use this as an excuse to not learn to fly his airplane – "you know, Al, I can't see the horizon, I can't reach the brakes/rudders. Oh well... guess I'll keep flying Cessnas." Nope. Al built me a booster seat made of the same materials the Cozy is made of. It's perfect too. He even painted it.*

*I'll be honest, I was afraid to learn to fly the Cozy. There's an adage in flight training, don't learn how to fly from a family member. Think back to when you were learning how to drive and your mom or dad taught you. Now, picture just getting your license... and your dad wants to teach you how to drive his brand-new Porsche 911 with a manual transmission. It's fast and it feels a little out of control.*

*You're not super confident. Now, picture your dad telling you that you're a good driver, and that you can drive this super expensive, very fast car. Picture him reassuring you that you can do it. He knows you're*

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**lauren aldinger** - February 21, 2016 at 01:37 PM

EH

*Great post Lauren. I hope to meet you someday.*

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**elisabeth hassett** - March 03, 2016 at 09:17 AM

CP

“ 1 file added to the album AL



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**Cathy Aldinger Potterjoy** - February 20, 2016 at 12:16 PM

CP

*So sorry to hear of the passing of cousin Al. He was a very kind and intelligent human being and is dearly missed.*

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**Cathy Aldinger Potterjoy** - February 20, 2016 at 02:26 PM

AJ

“ *Nance, Craig, and Lauren,  
You are in our thoughts, heart, and prayers. We love you much.  
Angela, Josh, and Amanda*

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**Angela Jobe** - February 19, 2016 at 09:18 AM

DS

“ *Nancy.....I am so sorry for your loss! Many thoughts and prayers  
are with you and your family. All the great memories will sustain you  
through this difficult time. Dorothy (Kari) Shromoff*

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**Dorothy (Kari) Shromoff** - February 17, 2016 at 10:03 PM

EH

“ Nance and Craig, I am so saddened for your loss. Al fought a good fight. He was such a fine man. May you take comfort in that you did everything you could while caring for him in his last days. I pray the Lord's peace and comfort over you as you walk through this new journey of life. You will continue to be in my prayers. I will stay in touch.

*Blessings and Love, your cousin Elisabeth.*

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**Elisabeth Hassett** - February 17, 2016 at 05:21 PM

BZ

“ Al was a friend to all who knew him. I have years and years of wonderful memories of our friendship going way back to the Cadotte Lake days in the 50's and through school until our graduation in 1962. He always had that special smile and was always ready to help someone in need. He could fix anything. Nance, you are in are in our thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. We pray that God comforts you in a way that only He can.

*Bob & Suzanne Zapolski*

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**Bob Zapolski** - February 17, 2016 at 01:45 PM

RS

“ Roger and Shirley purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Albert Aldinger.



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**Roger and Shirley** - February 17, 2016 at 12:18 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Albert Aldinger.*



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February 17, 2016 at 10:22 AM



“ *Nancy...I am so sorry.*

*Love, Cathy Hubbartt*



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**Cathy Hubbartt** - February 16, 2016 at 06:55 PM



“ *I have lots of good memories of Al back in the day when he flew Mobile Pipeline. So sorry for loss.*

*Carol Pressley*

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**Carol Pressley** - February 16, 2016 at 06:45 PM

RM

“ We will dearly miss Al, and I know we will see him again. I remember how excited we all were when Al would fly in and land behind Grandma and Grandpa's. I went on my first airplane ride with him. I was able to come and visit Al and Nancy a couple of times in Texas, and we sure had a grand time. Al was working on his plane in the garage. Al and Nancy were able to stop and visit us in Minot on their way through, we had a lot of fun. I know my mom is probably still using a computer program he wrote, I think he could do about anything. I am glad my family was able to meet and get to know him, we will miss him. Love ya Al,

*from Ron, Carla, Casandra, Lindsay, Luke, Grace Merritt.*



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**Ron Merritt** - February 16, 2016 at 01:41 PM

LA

*What a great picture! Thanks for sharing.*

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**lauren aldinger** - February 17, 2016 at 10:51 AM

RM

“ Ron Merritt lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger



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**Ron Merritt** - February 16, 2016 at 01:10 PM

CM

“ In the 40 years I knew Al, I came to realize how exceptional he was. He was the pilot’s pilot, the aircraft mechanic’s mechanic and his skills in electronics were amazing. He could keep a car, clock or computer working long after anyone else would have sent it to the junk yard.

Al took the time to teach me as much as he could. For that, I am forever grateful and promise to pass on as much of that skill as I can.

Al, you have left some pretty big shoes to fill & I don’t know anyone else that could fill them.

Nance, Craig & Lauren, you have my deepest condolences.

Craig McGough

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**Craig McGough** - February 16, 2016 at 09:52 AM

LA

“ IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, family requests memorials on behalf of Al Aldinger to Make-A-Wish [www.wish.org/donate](http://www.wish.org/donate) or the charity of your choice.

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**lauren aldinger** - February 15, 2016 at 08:59 PM

LA

“ <http://www.lcnewschronicle.com/obituaries/3948243-albert-al-john-al-dinger>

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**lauren aldinger** - February 15, 2016 at 08:57 PM

DA

“ I first met Al in 1959 when he started attending Two Harbors High School. We had many good times and some REALLY good times! Debbie and I have visited him and Nance about half dozen times over the years and always have had such a good time with them. We've seen them every summer at their RV in Fairbanks, MN. As Kenny says, Al was a genius. He got my 1947 Jeep running again after another buddy drove it into Cadotte Lake. Both Debbie and I will miss him forever. And Nance, we are so sorry for your loss. Al was one of the really good guys.  
Jon and Debbie Anderson

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**Deborah Anderson** - February 15, 2016 at 05:29 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



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**aldinger** - February 15, 2016 at 05:16 PM

BW

“ Bruce and Maxine Wells purchased the A Full Life for the family of Albert Aldinger.



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**Bruce and Maxine Wells** - February 15, 2016 at 03:44 PM

AL

“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



aldinger - February 15, 2016 at 03:12 PM

AL

“ 1 file added to the album AL



aldinger - February 15, 2016 at 03:09 PM

RS

“ *It appears from all the other shared memories that everyone felt the same about Al. He could fix almost anything and was always willing to help anyone who needed it. We loved when Nance and Al were in Minnesota and we got to visit with them in Fairbanks or they would come to Marble Lake. Al was a very special person and we will miss him. Our sympathies to Nance, Craig and Lauren.*



Roger and Shirley - February 15, 2016 at 03:01 PM

TB

“ I'm blessed to have known Al for more than 22 years as a co-worker, mentor, and friend. Al was a great asset to the aviation community and there are many of us who operate at a higher standard because of his example. I also have to agree with Ken about Al being a genius. Seems Al could do anything he set his mind to, and was always willing to share his wisdom with anyone who needed help or advice. Al will be missed! And Nance, praying for you and your family during this time of loss! - Tom & Barb Buchner



Tom Buchner - February 15, 2016 at 01:10 PM

TF

“ The James Engle Family purchased the Sentiments of Serenity Spray for the family of Albert Aldinger.



The James Engle Family - February 15, 2016 at 12:52 PM

AL

“ 6 files added to the tribute wall



aldinger - February 15, 2016 at 12:40 PM

LA

“ 5 files added to the tribute wall



lauren aldinger - February 15, 2016 at 12:34 PM

AD

“ Andy Durrett



Andy Durrett - February 15, 2016 at 10:34 AM

LA

Hi Andy. How did you know AI?

lauren aldinger - February 15, 2016 at 05:17 PM

BB

“ Bob & Sheila Bissell lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger



Bob & Sheila Bissell - February 15, 2016 at 04:13 AM

YJ

“ Al & Nancy have been our neighbors & friends for over 30 years. Al was a true gentleman and a great friend. He will be missed but we are comforted because he is in heaven. Our thoughts and prayers are with Nancy, Craig and the whole family.



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**Yusuf & Kulsum Jiwa** - February 14, 2016 at 08:13 PM

YF

“ Yusuf & Kulsum Jiwa & Family lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger



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**Yusuf & Kulsum Jiwa & Family** - February 14, 2016 at 07:30 PM

AJ

“ Ayub Jiwa lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger



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**Ayub Jiwa** - February 14, 2016 at 07:29 PM

YJ

“ Yusuf & Kulsum Jiwa and Family



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**Yusuf Jiwa** - February 14, 2016 at 07:20 PM

SS

“ *Skye & Brian Smith lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger*



**Skye & Brian Smith** - February 14, 2016 at 06:33 PM

OA

“ *I will always Love you. MOM*



**Olive Aldinger** - February 14, 2016 at 01:57 PM

KA

“ *Albert was my older brother and I have always admired him and looked up to him. In my opinion he was a genius. He knew how to do anything that needed to be done. I remember when we were kids living in Isabella and TV's were tube types and mostly all you got was snow for a picture. Well Albert took three television's that were broke down and took tubes out and replaced them with tubes from the others and when he got done the television actually worked and it had a tint of color in it. This was several years before color televisions were out. He so meticulous with everything that he did, and if decided he was going to do something he would not quite until it was complete. I love him so much and will miss him terrible.*



**Ken Aldinger** - February 14, 2016 at 12:07 PM



*Ken... so sorry for your loss... These are wonderful tributes to read about your brother... he must have been such a blessing to you all..... Susan Bergren Anderson...class of 1966.*

**Susan Anderson** - February 17, 2016 at 06:16 PM

GG

“ *Gary And Gaye Grissom lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger*



**Gary and Gaye Grissom** - February 14, 2016 at 11:59 AM

GG

*You are in our thoughts and prayers. May you feel God's presence, comfort, and peace during this difficult time. Al was a kind, gentle man that touched the lives of everyone who knew him and we will miss him very much.*

**Gaye Grissom** - February 15, 2016 at 08:00 AM

KC

“ *Kirk, Urbae Hall & Children lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger*



**Kirk, Urbae Hall & children** - February 14, 2016 at 11:07 AM

BM

“ *Sending a hug and a prayer. I will miss my big brother. Love Barb and Randy* ”



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**Barb Merritt** - February 14, 2016 at 10:52 AM

JE

“ Al Aldinger was a great man in our family’s life. Since I was 9 years old, Al (and Nance) were the kind of people every child needs in their life. I was best friends with Craig, and Nance and Al treated me like part of the family. They would take me on family vacations, summer and science camp that Craig went to. I can remember going for flights in his airplane and going to the airport to work on the plane. He inspired a curiosity that I admired. He actually built his own TV once; along with many other projects. He could tackle anything . He was generous with his time and sharing his knowledge of electronics. He taught me how to “Al-rig” things; meaning Al always had a way to make things work again. He was one of the most technically creative people I’ve ever met.

*As a child, you don’t realize the effect people like Al have on your life until you have a family yourself. When my daughter Laurin was born 22 years ago; the choice for Godparents was an easy one; Al and Nance are my daughter’s Godparents and have been a good influence in our lives all these years. The effect they have had on my life as a child and my family’s life since I grew up has been very special and helped me be the father I am today.*

*Al’s family life made my life to be one full of love and kindness. I’ll never forget it and I will continue to strive to be a good father, just as he was.*

*Nance, Craig and Lauren: My children, My wife and my whole extended family sends our deepest condolences for the loss of a great Man.*

*I wish we could be there with you for the services; my family will be there.*

*Love, Prayers and Great Memories Coming from Denmark,  
James and Christine Engle*

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**James and Christine Engle** - February 14, 2016 at 10:46 AM

JH

“ JB & Khatun Hollenberg lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger



JB & Khatun Hollenberg - February 14, 2016 at 09:23 AM

MA

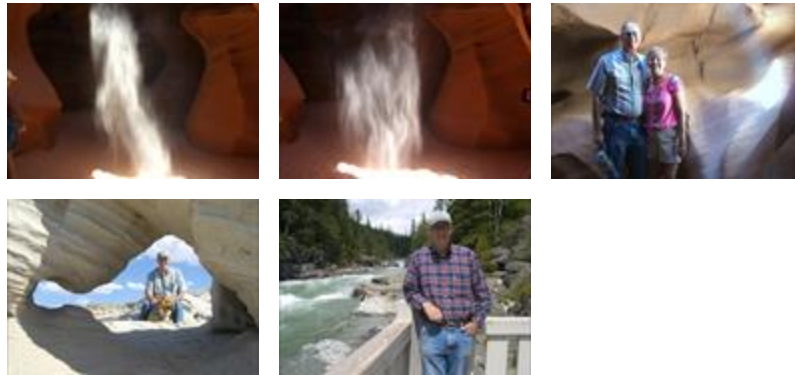
“ Mark & Julie Aldinger lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger



Mark & Julie Aldinger - February 14, 2016 at 04:48 AM

AL

“ 20 files added to the album AL



aldinger - February 13, 2016 at 09:43 PM



“ *Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Albert Aldinger.*



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February 13, 2016 at 08:30 PM



“ *Sharon Hellman lit a candle in memory of Albert Aldinger*



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**Sharon Hellman** - February 13, 2016 at 06:13 PM



*Al was my big brother and my husband Dick's best friend. He will always be missed and loved in my heart. He now has his wings and is able to fly again. We will all be together again one day! Love Sharon*

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**Sharon Hellman** - February 13, 2016 at 06:18 PM



*He will be missed very much. I only just met him a couple of years ago and he was a very very nice man. And yes he was very meticulous. So sorry. We are sending many prayers to his family.*

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**Jim and Holly Graham** - February 14, 2016 at 07:18 PM

MA

*I am so thankful for the time I got to spend with Albert. He taught me so many things, mechanical and electrical but most of all I learned to be a kind person, just by watching Albert.*

*He helped Julie and I so much with the cabin, we will be forever thankful, we will miss him so much.*

*Thank you Thank you Thank you  
We love you and will never forget  
Your brother Mark & Julie*

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**Mark Aldinger** - February 15, 2016 at 06:08 PM

SS

*Olive was my sponsor for Confirmation. Al was a bit older, but knew him in high school. I graduated from THHS with sister Sharon. Al was a super nice guy, who came from such a wonderful family! My heartfelt condolences to his family. That horrific disease has taken many of my loved ones as well. Al will be flying higher than ever, and will reunite with his loved ones again someday. The cancer is over, the pain no more. Rest in peace Al.*

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**Susan Cavallin Stokes** - February 16, 2016 at 06:34 PM



“ *Stately Lilies was purchased for the family of Albert Aldinger.*



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February 13, 2016 at 12:19 PM