

**Joel Moskowitz, Alfred University alumnus and trustee, died Saturday, March 14**  
3/16/15



Joel Moskowitz, a 1961 alumnus of Alfred University (AU) who served the University as a trustee for more than 30 years while also building and running a very successful business, died Saturday March 14, 2015, after a long battle with cancer. Moskowitz, 75, is survived by his beloved wife Ann and his son, David.

“Alfred University had no greater champion than Joel Moskowitz,” said President Charles M. Edmondson. “ He was a tireless advocate for the Alfred tradition of combining excellence in academics with an investment in the personal growth of students. Among our ceramic engineering alumni no one was more widely recognized or respected. For over 50 years he consistently credited his Alfred experience for his successes both as an engineer and as a businessman. Together with his wife Ann, he was strongly committed to enhancing student life at Alfred. Joel's House and Ann's House will be lasting testaments to their commitment. In time, we will remember only his attributes of loyalty, generosity, and optimism. For the time being, however, we can only mourn the loss of a great Alfredian.”

As a Trustee, Moskowitz served as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee, was a long-time member of the University Relations Committee, and served as its chair for a number of years, as well as a member of the Executive Committee, Buildings and Grounds Committee, the Human Resources Subcommittee, and the Endowment Campaign Planning Committee. In 2007, he presented the CUTCO annual lecture in entrepreneurial leadership at Alfred University. The University awarded him a Doctor of Science degree, *honoris causa*, in 2005.

Throughout his long career, Moskowitz never failed to credit Alfred University for his success. In numerous interviews with national and regional media, he frequently touted AU and the education he received there. He liked to recount the story of walking along a beach, wearing an Alfred University tee-shirt, and meeting a gentleman walking in the opposite direction, who spotted his tee-shirt and struck up a conversation about AU. The other gentleman was James Jordan & 72, who became not only a friend to Joel and Ann, but also a member of the Board of Trustees.

Joel and Ann Moskowitz were members of the Society of Benefactors, meaning their lifetime giving to AU exceeded \$1 million. Long-time supporters of the Alfred Fund, they were also generous donors to capital campaigns; two of their most-recent gifts created Joel&s House, a 22-bed special interest house, and Ann&s House, a 48-bed residence hall that became the University&s first-ever gold LEED-certified building, largely through their insistence that the facility be built to exacting environmentally friendly standards.

Moskowitz also loved to tell the story of his professional success. Shortly after graduation from AU with a degree in ceramic engineering, he headed to California where in 1967, with \$5,000, he co-founded Ceradyne, Inc., an advanced technical ceramic company. He served as president and chairman of the board for Ceradyne, overseeing its growth into an international, publicly held corporation with multiple research and manufacturing facilities in the United States, Germany, France, Canada and China. The company manufactured and marketed advanced technical ceramics for the industrial, aerospace, defense, medical and electronic markets until it was sold to 3M in 2012. *Forbes* magazine at one point rated Ceradyne as “one of the 200 Best Small Companies in America” and Deloitte and Touche listed Ceradyne as one of the 50 fastest-growing companies in America.

As noted in his honorary degree citation, “What Joel and the other ceramic engineers at Ceradyne have done is provide a definitive answer to that age-old question: ‘What do ceramic engineers do?’& Their answer is simply: ‘We save lives.& Ceradyne manufactured the ceramic plates for the body armor worn by U.S. troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. The armor was credited with saving thousands of lives with Ceradyne&s lightweight ceramic plates that are capable of stopping an AK-47 bullet. Ceradyne also produced armor for aircraft, tanks and customized cars and limousines. Ceradyne has been highly acclaimed for its products, for which Joel Moskowitz received the prestigious Albert Einstein Technology Award from the Israeli government in 2004.” He treasured the letters he received from soldiers, telling him how the Ceradyne plates stopped bullets and prevented serious injuries.

Not content to simply relax after he retired from Ceradyne, Moskowitz quickly immersed himself in a new cause making the federal government aware of the need to keep ceramic engineering as a viable course of study because of the critical role ceramics and other advanced materials play in applications for the defense, energy, environmental and biomedical industries. He was founding chair of the Ceramic and Glass Industry Foundation, an organization aimed at promoting ceramic and glass education. He also threw himself enthusiastically into his new role as vice chair of the Alfred University Board of Trustees, and chair of its “All for Alfred” campaign committee.

Moskowitz&s funeral will be at 1:00 p.m. Wednesday, March 18, at Temple Bat Yahm, 1011 Camelback Street, Newport Beach, CA 92660.