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YOLO COUNTY NEWS

Obituaries

Aloys L. Tappel

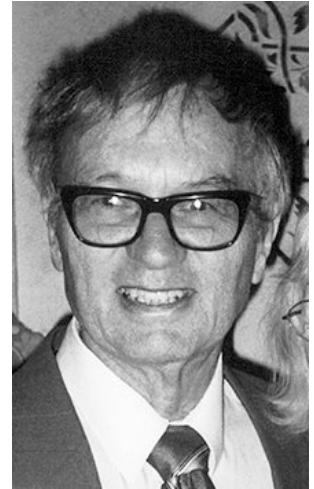
By Special to The Enterprise

Nov. 21, 1926 — Nov. 25, 2017

Aloys L. Tappel, 91, of Davis passed away on Nov. 25, 2017, at his home with loving family members and a caregiver at his bedside, from pneumonia, after living with Parkinson's Disease for many years.

Al was born on Nov. 21, 1926, in a house in St. Louis, to Aloys and Julian Tappel. Al developed an early interest in science while he was educated at parochial schools and he graduated from St. Louis University High School. He received his bachelor's degree in Chemical Engineering at Iowa State University. Al received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry under Paul Boyer, later a Nobel laureate, and Walt Lundberg of the Hormel Institute and the University of Minnesota.

Al met his future wife, Ardelle Amber Fish, in lipids class on the St. Paul campus of the University of Minnesota. They became acquainted on long walks after lunch. Al and Ardelle married on May 26, 1951, in the Chapel of the Cathedral in St. Paul, Minnesota.



Aloys Tappel. Courtesy photo

When the Department of Food Science and Technology moved from UC Berkeley to UC Davis, Al was interviewed and hired by Emil Mrak, then the chairman of the Department of Food Science and Technology. Al and Ardelle moved to Davis in 1951, where Al joined the Department of Food Science and Technology as an instructor until 1953 when he was appointed assistant professor in 1953. Appointments to follow, all in the department of food science and technology: associate professor, 1957-1961; professor, 1961-1994; and professor emeritus from 1994 onward.

During Al's 50 years on the faculty, he taught food biochemistry for graduate students and food analysis for undergraduates. Al's main activity was research on food biochemistry, nutrition and related subjects in collaboration with graduate students, postdoctoral scientists and visiting scientists. Al's research resulted in more than 450 peer-reviewed scientific publications in a broad range of scientific journals. Al collaborated with 13 Ph.D. students, 34 post-Ph.D.s and 58 visiting scientists and faculty members.

Al coined the scientific term "peroxidation" in order to distinguish the oxidative reactions involving peroxide (which are deleterious to tissue) from the oxidative reactions involved in the benign metabolic utilization of lipids for energy. Al conducted pioneering research on the peroxidation of lipids in vivo and its effects on cellular damage.

He was the first to demonstrate that combinations of antioxidants are more effective in preventing peroxidation than each acting alone. A wide spectrum of blended compounds offers twice as much protection as single antioxidants. The synergistic effect provides anti-cancer protection. Al also worked on other topics including lysosomal enzymes, biological effects of selenium, and new analytical methods in biochemistry.

Some of the 13 awards Al received included the 1965 Guggenheim Fellowship, 1973 Borden Award from American Institute of Nutrition, 1991 Award of the Agricultural and Food Chemistry Division of the American Chemical Society, 1992 Supelco American Oil Chemists Society Research Award, 1995 Alton E. Bailey Medal of the American Chemists Society, 1995 Chang Award of the American Oil Chemists Society, 1997 The Oxygen Club of California Award, and also 1997 the Nicholas Appert Award.

Al enjoyed spending time with his family, reading, camping, hiking, backpacking, cross-country skiing, and traveling

in his RV with his wife. Al and (Ardelle) Amber were very close and loving in their relationship.

Al is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, (Ardelle) Amber; daughters Susan Tappel (Norman) of Davis, Mary Tappel (John) of Sacramento, Cathy Steele Tappel (Marc) of Vancouver, Wash., and Liz Brownfield of San Jose; sons Steve Tappel of Davis and Paul Tappel (Kerry) of Brier, Wash.; 13 grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Al is also survived by his brother Ed Tappel of Cincinnati, and his brother-in-law Ron Fish (Belva) of Shafer, Minnesota.

The family wishes to thank Al's caregivers in his final years: Latileta Soqonatabua, Sala Rokomatu and Vinnie Vasuikoro.

There will be a funeral mass at 11 a.m. Friday, Jan. 12, at St. James Catholic Church, 1275 B Street in Davis. All are welcome.

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