

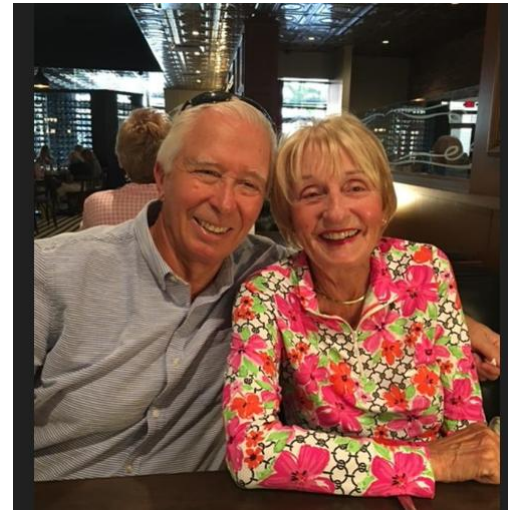
Joel Richard Alper

1938 – 2026

Joel Richard Alper, 88, of Bonita Springs, Florida, passed away peacefully on April 26, 2026, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer.

Born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1938, Joel earned a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from The Cooper Union, a Master of Science from MIT, and a Master of Business Administration from Boston University.

Joel began his career in the satellite industry during its earliest days, first working for Jet Propulsion Laboratories and then for TRW, where he contributed to the development of elements of the first lunar landing vehicle. After marrying the love of his life, Louise, in 1963, the couple moved to Europe, where Joel oversaw European participation in the construction of the first commercial communications satellite, Intelsat III.



He returned from Europe in 1974 to join COMSAT (Communications Satellite Corporation), where he rose to become President of the World Systems Division, leading the company's international satellite telecommunications business. In 1993, Joel retired from COMSAT and founded Mobile Datacom Corporation, providing mobile data communications services to the logistics command of the U.S. Army. Mobile Datacom was sold to Comtech Corporation in 1998, where Joel remained as President and CEO until his retirement in 2003. During that time, the company became a principal supplier of satellite-based logistics systems and communications services supporting U.S. military operations around the world.

Throughout his career, Joel was known for his remarkable intelligence, sharp strategic mind, and disciplined work ethic. He took great pride in building a life of stability, security, and opportunity for his family.

In retirement, Joel developed a true passion for golf and loved spending time on the course with friends. He was an active board member and Chair of the National Philharmonic Orchestra and Chorale of Montgomery County and also served on the boards of several neighborhood organizations, including at The Palermo, where he greatly valued the friendships, conversations, and strong sense of community he built there. He especially loved time spent with his buddies, good conversation, and being surrounded by people he cared about.

Above all else, Joel was devoted to his beloved wife, Louise. Her wellbeing was always his greatest priority, and the life they built together was the center of everything he did. He was a loving and dedicated husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather whose steady strength, guidance, and presence will be deeply missed.

Joel is survived by his beloved wife of 63 years, Louise C. Alper; his daughters, Andree Lloyd (Jay) of Beaufort, South Carolina, and Danielle Johnson (Scott) of Potomac, Maryland; his granddaughter, Tyler Belle Johnson, grandson, Cooper Scott Johnson, and his step granddaughter Kelly Katherine Heilpern (Jeremy); his great-grandchildren, Kendall Rose and Harper Lily; his sister, Adrienne Isquith (Rantch) of Highwood, Illinois; and his beloved niece, Jennifer Isquith, and nephew, David Isquith.

He leaves behind a legacy of love, strength, loyalty, and provision and will be deeply missed by family, friends, and all who knew him all over the world.

A celebration of Joel's life will be held on Friday, May 16, 2026, from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM at The Bay Club at The Palermo in Bonita Springs. Friends and neighbors are invited to stop by to share memories and raise a glass in his honor.