



## Claus Plath

October 22, 1932 - October 26, 2011

### Pawleys Island

Claus Christian Plath, age 79, passed away peacefully at his residence on Wednesday, October 26, 2011 surrounded by his family following a long battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Born on October 22, 1932 in Esens, Germany, he was the son of the late Alwin and Ilse Koehler Plath, a brother of the late Peter and Arne Plath and a stepson of the beloved Gertrud "Trudi" Plath.

He is survived by his wife of 49 years, Heike Petersen Plath, their two daughters: Karen J. Plath and Christine C. Plath Lawson; son-in-law, Chuck Lawson; granddaughters: Mackenzie Elizabeth Lawson and Emma Claire Lawson of Charlottesville, VA and four siblings: Brigitte, Michael, Nicole and Annette and their 11 children all of whom reside in Germany.

Educated in Germany, Claus began his business career in 1955 with Kuehne & Nagel, one of the largest international logistics companies in the world. Fluent in German, English and French, he spent 5 years representing the company in Lattakia/Syria, Cairo/ Egypt and Tehran/ Iran. While in Cairo, he met his future wife, Heike in 1961. Following their wedding in Toronto, Canada in 1962, they settled in Duesseldorf, Germany for a year. In August of 1963,

Claus accepted an offer from K & N to become the liaison officer for the German Military/NATO in Washington, D.C. In 1973 he transferred to Baltimore and in 1981 he went to work for PANALPINA, a Swiss Logistics Company, managing their Baltimore office until his retirement in 1997 as Vice President. Claus was an avid reader, a lover of classical music and a patron of Pawleys Island Festival of Music in earlier years. He played violin as a youngster, was an accomplished athlete in his youth; a track and field star, gymnast and competitive field hockey player. He had a great sense of humor and was very social. He was a loving husband, father and grandfather and a loyal friend to many. He will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held at 11 A.M. on Saturday, November 19, 2011 at the Litchfield by the Sea Beach Clubhouse with a reception following, 80 McKissick Drive Pawleys Island, SC 29585.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made in Claus' name to the Alzheimers Association, 4124 Clemson Blvd., Suite L, Anderson, SC 29621 or Tideland Community Hospice, 2591 N. Fraser St., Georgetown, SC 29440.

Sign a guestbook at [www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com](http://www.goldfinchfuneralhome.com)

Goldfinch Funeral Home, Litchfield-Pawleys Chapel is handling the arrangements for Claus and his family.

# Tribute Wall

MR

“ *Dear Heike, I was sorry to learn of Your loss. Claus was a very old friend and business associate from our days in Alexandria and Baltimore. Please accept our condolences. Manuel C. Ramos, Annapolis, MD.*

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**Manuel C. Ramos** - November 17, 2011 at 07:46 PM

JC

“ *Dear Heike,  
So sorry to hear about the passing of Claus. I have many good memories of being a guest in your lovely home while you were living in Baltimore. My thought and prayers are with you and your family at this time.  
Judy Copeland*

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**Judy C. Copeland** - November 10, 2011 at 08:17 PM

RW

“ *Dear Heike and Family,  
We were fortunate to have gotten to know Claus through our work association some years ago. This chance encounter led, over time, to a genuine friendship with shared interests not only in business but, most importantly, in shared values and tastes. Claus' honesty and integrity was an encouragement in times where these qualities were not always prevalent. We will greatly miss him.  
Rainer and Kathy Wildenhain*

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**Rainer Wildenhain** - November 09, 2011 at 12:19 PM

MD

“ Dear Heike and Family:

*Please accept my sincere condolences on the loss of your beloved husband and father. I worked with Claus at Panalpina in the '80's. He was always a gentleman and I truly appreciated his wit. And he was, without question, one of the most knowledgeable people that I'd ever met in the forwarding industry.*

*I wish you God's peace and the comfort of many happy memories to help you through the coming weeks.*

*Michele Emerson Dorsey  
Baltimore, MD*

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**Michele Emerson Dorsey** - November 08, 2011 at 12:10 PM

JK

“ *I am very sorry to hear of the passing of Claus. I always enjoyed his friendliness and conversation. Claus will be sorely missed in the community.*

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**Jim Klute** - November 08, 2011 at 08:05 AM

RM

“ *Dear Heike, We were so sorry to hear of your loss--please accept our sympathy. Carolyn & Bob Montagne (your former Old Pointe Road nieghbors)*

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**Robert & Carolyn Montagne** - November 05, 2011 at 01:52 PM

BK

“ Heike & family,  
Debbie & I have very fond memories of you both while here in Baltimore & I wish we had the opportunity to come to Pawley's Island for a visit. I missed seeing you both at the Crab Feast but I knew in recent times Claus was not doing well. Debbie & I were delighted you & Claus came to our 25th wedding anniversary & next year will be our 40th. I had thought you & Claus could come to the celebration again as I'm expecting some of my adopted German family will come. We expect to return to Germany next year too as I need to revive my german speaking ability. Some happy news to report is that our oldest daughter delivered, our first grandchild, a baby girl on June 8th, named Charlotte. Since both our birthdays are in June, I think of Charlotte as a lovely gift. Obviously, we are sadden to learn of Claus' passing and want you and the girls to know he is missed. We will not be able to make the memorial service but will hold you all in our thoughts & prayers.  
Vilele gruess  
Dein Bill Kommalan

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**Bill & Debbie Kommalan** - November 05, 2011 at 09:52 AM

DS

“ So sorry to hear of Claus' passing, What a sweet, kind man. Fond memories  
of a great boss at "Panalpina" ~Debbie Scheeler

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**Debbie A. Scheeler** - November 04, 2011 at 07:39 AM

MB

“ Heike,  
Roger and I were deeply saddened to learn of Claus' passing.  
Please accept our heartfelt sympathies.

Maureen

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**maureen beckner** - November 03, 2011 at 11:45 AM

SL

“ *Susan Finnerty Lampson lit a candle in memory of Claus Plath*



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**Susan Finnerty Lampson** - November 01, 2011 at 03:31 PM

LA

“ *We are so very sorry for your loss. We worked with Claus in Baltimore and always appreciated his charm, his wit and his graciousness. He was a true gentleman (as well as a character :)) and will be missed.*

*Tom and Laurie Amatucci*

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**Laurie Amatucci** - November 01, 2011 at 09:09 AM

CE

“ *Heike,  
I'm so sorry to learn of your loss. Thinking of you and wishing you peace.*

*Carol Empie*

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**Carol Empie** - November 01, 2011 at 05:21 AM