

Obituary: Othmar W. Winkler

6/5/1923- 8/14/2022



Othmar W. Winkler, Ph.D. passed away August 14 at age 99. One of 5 children, he was born June 5, 1923 in Vienna, Austria, to Dr. Wilhelm Winkler, a professor at the University of Vienna, and to Clara Deutsch Winkler, a Jewish convert to Catholicism. Othmar and most of his family survived both WWII and Russian occupation but lost their sister Traudl in the Holocaust.

He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Vienna and in 1949 immigrated to Caracas, Venezuela for his first University teaching position where he served for 5 years. He married Ellen Fletcher in 1954 and relocated to Santiago, Chile, where 4 of their 7 children were born. After a brief teaching position at Marquette University, he accepted a professorship in the Business School at Georgetown University in 1960 until mandatory retirement in 1993. As Professor Emeritus, he remained close to the Jesuits and faculty at Georgetown and continued his academic pursuits, research, and scholarship. He is predeceased by his wife Ellen in 2021, and his daughter Angelica in 1984. He is survived by his children, retired Navy LCDR John Winkler of Valparaiso, Florida; Mary Dezso (Brian) of Westport, Connecticut; Thomas Winkler, M.D. (Lauren) of Bethesda, Maryland; James Packard Winkler, Ph.D. (Mary) of Bethesda, Maryland; Mark Winkler of San Diego, California and Margaret Fabien (Derek) of Sarasota, Florida and 10 grandchildren.

Othmar remained mentally and physically active, exercising, riding his 3-wheeled bicycle and publishing until his passing. His family established the Othmar W. Winkler Award at Georgetown's McDonough School of Business to recognize the Jesuit values of social justice and community service among graduating seniors as essential in their formation as future business leaders and their role in society. In lieu of flowers, gifts may be made to the Othmar W. Winkler Award Fund, Georgetown University, Gift Processing, Department Number 0734, Washington, DC 20073-0734, or on the [Georgetown website](#).

A mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at St. Ann Catholic Church in Arlington, VA on Friday, August 26 at 3:00 pm with reception to follow.

[In 2009, Springer published Othmar's *Interpreting Economic and Social Data: A Foundation of Descriptive Statistics*. He argued that statistical theory is not adequate in dealing with social, business and economic statistics and presented his ideas. See www.StatLit.org/Winkler.htm] Added by Milo Schield