

Stanley Deser passed away in Pasadena in April, 2023. Stanley had found a new home in Caltech after he retired from Brandeis in 2005. He also moved to Pasadena to be closer to his daughters. Stanley was married to Elsbeth Deser, a renowned painter. Some of her work can be seen at the [Rose Art Museum](#).

Stanley was a towering figure in theoretical high-energy physics, classical gravity and quantum gravity. His work was remarkable in that it cut through mathematical complexity to reveal deep physical insight. His first signature work, the Arnowitt–Deser–Misner (ADM) formalism provides the foundation of precise calculations needed to match cosmic microwave background observations; and in numerical relativity calculations needed to interpret the results of gravitational-wave experiments, which have been much in the news. He leaves behind a lifetime of work in theoretical physics that remains foundational.

Stanley had fun doing Physics. As he recalled in an interview with the [New York Times](#), Arnowitt, Deser and Misner completed much of the work during summers in Denmark, in a kindergarten classroom. “The nice thing about this kindergarten, it has blackboards,” he said. “Denmark is very good that way.” He added “Since the blackboards were mounted low for children, “we would crawl and write equations,” Dr. Deser said. “And the papers just poured out.”

I still miss my conversations with Stanley, which were like navigating a minefield sprinkled with allusions and jokes. You had to be on your toes to catch them. He will be remembered for the gems of wisdom that were often hidden in these conversations.