



Peter Thomas Meletis

July 21, 1931 - November 21, 2020

Peter Thomas Meletis (Evrripido Soterios) was born on July 21, 1931 in Washington DC, and raised in Alexandria, VA to Greek Immigrant parents Soterios, (Tom) from Thrace, Turkey and Anna Anagnostopoulos Meletis of Peramos, Asia Minor. Peter, affectionately called Rip, grew up in a loving family with his sister, Bessie M. Charuhas and brother Angelo Meletis. Peter graduated from George Washington High School in 1949. He was raised in the family's Virginia Motel and Restaurant business in Old Town, Alexandria.

"Freedom is not Free." Many will recognize this as a favorite saying of Peter Meletis. On November 21, 2020 Peter Thomas Meletis passed away peacefully at home with his wife, children and grandchildren by his side.

In 1949, Peter enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, and trained in Parris Island, SC. His Unit was Easy Company, 2nd Battalion, 5th Regiment, 1st Marine Division. From 1950 to 1951 Peter fought in the Chosin Reservoir and Battle of Hill 812. There he received two Purple Hearts, and Unit Citation. Peter enjoyed many recent Reunions with his Marine Brothers in Branson, MO.

In 1952 Peter enrolled at Wake Forest University on the GI Bill. He spoke fondly of seeing Arnold Palmer on the Old Campus and loved being a Demon Deacon. Peter graduated in 1955 with a BA in Education.

In 1961, Peter moved to Winston-Salem NC and raised 4 children. He opened and was the General Manager of the Parkway Chalet Motel and the Alpine Supper Club, a new sensation! In 1964, Peter was a founding partner of the Hawaiian themed Sheraton Motel. In 1974 Peter built the Master Host Inn and Country Kitchen in Statesville NC, Master Host Inn in Columbia SC, and the Red Carpet Inn in Orangeburg SC. Peter went on to develop and build numerous Motels, Restaurants and Shopping centers in NC, SC and VA.

In 1985 Peter moved to Lake Norman NC. As a developing partner in the I-77, Exit 36

acreage, Peter and his partners were responsible for bringing water and sewer to Hwy 150, Exit 36, now called Consumer Square. In order for this to take place, he had to promise so many new jobs to the State. Peter and 3 partners, James Jennings, Tom Gallos and Jimmy McKnight began developing the acreage with Pete building a restaurant named Scallywags and the Master Host Inn. He was the managing partner. He sold the restaurant several year later. He also was successful in bringing in Wendy's and Taco Bell. The property was eventually sold and the new owner Bennison continued to development what you see today with the exception of the Applebee's lot that Peter privately sold.

In 1993, Peter and a friend created Meletis/Gallos and built 6 sets of duplexes called Brookview Woods and owned and operated it until 2007.

In 1997 Peter met the love of his life Vivian Carol Smith. They married in 1998 and enjoyed traveling to Sunset Beach and the NC Mountains and Tarpon Springs, FL. Together they made a great team. Peter co-founded Iredell County's Stocks for Tots with Don Miller and 2 years later stepped away. In May 2002, Pete became the 1st Commandant of the Iredell County Marine Corps League and spent several years as the Commandant of the Department of NC's Marine Corps League in which he was instrumental in creating over 30 new detachments throughout NC. Vivian began working with the Marine Toys for Tots in 2002 in honor of Pete and has been Coordinator for 12 years.

In 2005-2006 Peter, his sister Bessie Charuhas and Willis Spivey teamed up together and built a shopping center located at 265 N. Main St. in Troutman named Char-Mel. After bringing in a few shops, it was sold in October of 2006. Pete also helped feed the Veterans and their wives twice a month with FeedNC. On July 21, 2016, Peter had the vision of starting the Piedmont Veteran's Assistance Council (PVAC) to assist Veterans in their time of need. It has been going strong ever since.

Peter put God and Jesus first and always gave credit to God for his many blessings. He was a founding member of both St. Katherine's Greek Orthodox Church in Falls Church, VA and St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church in Mooresville NC. He was also a member of Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church in Winston-Salem, NC. In recent years Peter dreamed of and founded the Iredell County Transitional Shelter in Statesville NC. He was often heard saying "Failure is not an Option!"

Pete was once asked by a man how he had managed to become so successful that everything he touched turned to gold. He simply answered him and told him he had a great partner. He was then asked if he thought his partner would be interested in taking on

another partner. His reply was you can ask him. When asked who his partner was Pete simply pointed upward and said God. One of his other poignant sayings was this; "We should spend more time building monuments in the hearts of our fellow man than those of brick and mortar".

Peter is survived by his loving wife of 22 years Vivian, children Tom Meletis (Effie), Nick Meletis (Joanna), Ann Scott (Don), and Cheryl Meletis; Chad Smith (Destiny Bowie), Miranda Oglesby (Zane); grandchildren Peter Meletis, Stephanie Proffitt (John), Honeigh Strickland (Dan), Lucas Meletis, Rip Scott, Nicholas Scott, Wilson Ebert (Corie), Harrison Ebert; and great grandchildren William Ebert, Thomas and Peter Ebert. Christos Ebert preceded in Heaven.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, December 1 at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home from 2:00-4:00 PM and from 6:00-8:00 PM. The funeral service will be at 11:00 AM on Wednesday, December 2 at Cavin-Cook Funeral Home Chapel. Burial will follow the service at Glenwood Memorial Park.

For those who are unable to attend the service, you may go to the following link for the live stream <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC864hAs96dTRLVVL1la0Qlw/videos?view=2&flow=list>

For those who are unable to attend the graveside, you may go to the following link for the live stream <https://www.facebook.com/CavinCookFuneralHomeServices/>

Memorials may be made to Piedmont Veteran's Assistance Council (PVAC) Iredell County, <http://Piedmontvac.org> or St. Luke's Greek Orthodox Church, 134 Talbert Pointe Drive, Mooresville, NC 28117.

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home & Crematory, Mooresville, is serving the family of Mr. Meletis. Condolences may be made to the family at www.cavin-cook.com.

Cemetery

Glenwood Memorial Park
273 Glenwood Drive
Mooresville, NC, 28115

Events

DEC 1 **Receiving Friends** 02:00PM - 04:00PM

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive, Mooresville, NC, US, 28115

DEC 1 **Receiving Friends** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Cavin-Cook Funeral Home
494 E. Plaza Drive, Mooresville, NC, US, 28115

DEC 2 **Memorial Service** 11:00AM - 11:45AM

Cavin-Cook Chapel
494 E. Plaza Drive, Mooresville, NC, US, 28115

DEC 2 **Graveside Service** 12:00PM - 12:30PM

Glenwood Memorial Park
Glenwood Drive, Mooresville, NC, US, 28115

Comments



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February 14 at 11:24 AM



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February 14 at 11:04 AM



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February 14 at 11:03 AM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michael Roberts - December 02, 2020 at 11:19 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



November 30, 2020 at 03:59 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



November 29, 2020 at 08:27 PM



“ Patti Norris purchased the Beautiful Heart Bouquet for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



Patti Norris - November 29, 2020 at 08:11 AM



“ 6 files added to the album Memories Album



Nick Meletis - November 28, 2020 at 08:21 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



November 28, 2020 at 03:43 PM



“ Dear Vivian and Family. Jane and I are so sorry at Pete's passing, and even though we are not related, we feel like a close family member is gone. It saddens us everyday to come out of our home in Sunset Beach, look at yours, and realize that we won't see Pete coming across the street to visit us again, and it hurts. So we can only imagine what you and family are enduring now. But we know that he is in a much better place now; not hurting anymore and talking with our maker and friends that have gone before, and that we will see him again someday. Much love to you and family. RIP my favorite Marine and good friend.

Jim & Jane Karriker
Sunset Beach, NC



Jim Karriker - November 28, 2020 at 08:37 AM



“ Vivian,
I was so sorry to hear about Pete's passing. You & your family are in my thoughts & prayers. You & Pete got together around the same time as Johnny & I. We were together for almost 21 years. He passed away 2 years ago. It's hard. Will be praying for you.
Love you,
Cathy Rohloff

Cathy Rohloff - November 28, 2020 at 01:26 AM



“ Love, Peter Rachel and Aunt Joan purchased the Sacred Duty Spray for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



Love, Peter Rachel and Aunt Joan - November 27, 2020 at 11:08 AM



“ LtGen Frank and Marianne Panter USMC (ret) purchased the A New Sunrise Spray for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



LtGen Frank and Marianne Panter USMC (ret) - November 27, 2020 at 10:28 AM



“ Pete loved the Lord and understood the joy from serving others. He and Vivian worked hard for Toys for Tots and Bikes for Tikes every year to make sure kids got something special for Christmas. He will be missed, but his legacy will remain with us. RIP Marine.

john kindley - November 27, 2020 at 09:07 AM



“ We met Pete and Vivian in 2016 when we moved in one of their homes. We have had many ups and downs yet Pete and Vivian have always been angels on earth to my family. Pete was always smiling and would wave at me. Vivian we love you and you and the family are in our prayers!!! So many prayers for you!!

Johnnie and Amy Liddle

Amy Liddle - November 26, 2020 at 08:06 PM



“ Please know that members of the Marine Corps League, Mideast Division join me in sending our sympathy and prayers for your loss.
Lee Taylor, Mideast Chaplain

Lee Taylor - November 26, 2020 at 09:54 AM



“ My memories of Uncle Pete go way back to my days in Winston and later in Virginia growing up with Nick, Tommy, Ann and Cheryl. They were good times and plenty of love to go around. Here are a few pictures from those days that are still fresh in my mind. My deepest condolences to the family. May his memory be eternal. Steve Summers



Stephen Summers - November 25, 2020 at 08:42 AM



“ Sacred Duty Spray was purchased for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



November 25, 2020 at 08:24 AM



“ Mrs. Vivian,

We are so sorry to hear of Pete's passing. You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers. We look forward to getting to know you better and renting our first house from you.

Our Condolences,
Dana, Mori & Ryleigh Hinson

Mori Hinson - November 24, 2020 at 09:59 PM



“ Landrea Johnson Rhyne sent a virtual gift in memory of Peter Thomas Meletis



Landrea Johnson Rhyne - November 24, 2020 at 09:26 PM



“ Thank you for serving our Country!

Landrea Johnson Rhyne - November 24, 2020 at 09:27 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



November 24, 2020 at 03:25 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Peter Thomas Meletis.



November 24, 2020 at 02:12 PM



“ Pete and Vivian were so special to me. I always enjoyed when they came into Izy Bell's for dinner. He will be missed.

Carol Ferguson - November 24, 2020 at 09:12 AM



“ Pete and Vivian were two of my favorite customers when I worked at Isy Belle's. I always smiled when I saw them come in, and always enjoyed talking with them. He was a good, kind man, and was always so nice and polite. Prayers for you and the family, Vivian.

Beth Beach - November 24, 2020 at 07:34 AM



“ I met Pete and Vivian several years ago while working at the bank. I loved both of them immediately~~And their dog!! Sometimes you just get lucky and meet people who make a difference in this world and realize you are better off just by knowing them! Love, hugs and prayers to Vivian and family!!

Jill Parmer - November 23, 2020 at 08:19 PM