



George P. Kotsiopoulos

December 14, 1922 - December 7, 2017

George Peter Kotsiopoulos, 94, formerly of Kearney, Nebraska, died Thursday, December 7, 2017 in Fort Collins, Colorado, just one week prior to his 95th birthday. A Memorial Service will be at 11:00 a.m., Saturday, December 16, at Holy Cross Lutheran Church in Kearney with Pastor Duane Duley officiating. Burial will be at 9:30 a.m. at the Kearney Cemetery with military honors by Kearney American Legion Post 52, Kearney Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 759 and the U.S. Navy Military Honors Team. Visitation will be from 6-8 p.m. Friday, December 15, at the Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl Funeral and Cremation Services, Kearney, NE.

George P. Kotsiopoulos was born December 14, 1922, in Kearney, NE to Peter and Antigone (Kapota) Kotsiopoulos. He grew up in Kearney and graduated from Kearney High School in 1941. He also attended Kearney State College, Holy Cross Seminary, and graduate school at Boston University.

He was a WWII veteran serving in the U.S. Navy from July 1, 1943, until being honorably discharged on December 26, 1945. He served his country in Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Saipan, Guadalcanal, Corregidor, Bataan, Hiroshima, and attended the Armistice in Tokyo Bay on the U.S.S. Missouri.

On August 14, 1944, George married Pauline Kyros, in Boston, MA. After attending graduate school at Boston University and graduating from the

Institute of Dry-cleaning and Laundry in Silver Springs, MD, he returned to Kearney and purchased Liberty Cleaners from his father and uncle in 1947. In 1954, the cleaners expanded to Grand Island and in 1957 opened stores in Columbus and North Platte, the latter two he sold in 1964. In 1974 he merged his company with his son, Peter, who started Varsity Formal Wear in 1969 and Liberty Uniform and Linen Supply in 1971.

George was active in numerous community projects and organizations including the Kearney Chamber of Commerce, finance chair of the Red Cross, Rotary International, charter member of the Colonels Club, Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, Royal Arch Masons, Legion, VFW, Tehama Shrine Temple, Knights Templar, Director of Holy Trinity Greek Church of Grand Island, and Lake Jeffrey Development Board.

In 1984 George and Paula moved to Fort Collins, CO to improve Paula's health. After 52 years of marriage, Paula passed away in January 1997. They enjoyed traveling, dancing, family, and were one of six founding couples of the Cotillion Dance Club. George then married Gwendolyn Squire of Fort Collins in May 1998. They, too, enjoyed traveling and dancing, as they split their time between homes in Colorado and Arizona.

During his life, George spent his free time golfing, pheasant hunting, traveling, Greek cooking, reading, and enjoying the family at Lake Jeffrey, water skiing, swimming, fishing and boating. In his youth he played on the basketball teams at Kearney High School and Holy Cross Seminary. In his later years, he maintained his health by riding his three-wheel bike several times a day.

George was preceded in death by his parents and his wife Paula.

George is survived by his wife Gwendolyn; son, Peter Kotsiopoulos (Jane) of Kearney, Nebraska; daughter, Antigone Kotsiopoulos (Jerry Culp) of Fort

Collins, Colorado; two granddaughters, Kara Steffen (Lance) of Kearney, Nebraska, and Julia Hernandez (Adrian) of LaVista, Nebraska, and five great grandchildren - Sophia, Syler, and Sladen Steffen of Kearney, and Henry and Truman Hernandez of LaVista , as well as Gwendolyn's children Karen Sorensen (Jon) of Sacramento, CA, Ken Squire of San Francisco, CA, and Dale Squire of Fort Collins, CO.

George's family would like to thank all the wonderful caregivers who aided him in the last couple of years. It is impossible to name all the nurses, aids, CNA's, and friends who were so supportive - but you know who you are. Special thanks to the people at The Winslow, Suncrest Hospice, Home Instead, Bright Star, RVNA, and The Suites.

Memorials are suggested to the Kotsiopoulos Family Scholarship Fund (#01058220) established at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, UN Foundation, P.O. Box 2678, Kearney, NE, or to the Kotsiopoulos Memorial Scholarship Fund (#52355) or the Kotsiopoulos Education Enhancement Fund (#47385) at Colorado State University, CSU Foundation, P.O. 1870, Fort Collins, CO, 80522.

Visit www.hlmkfuneral.com to leave a tribute or message of condolence.

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **15**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Horner Lieske McBride & Kuhl
2421 Avenue A
Kearney, NE 68847
(308) 237-2259
<https://www.hlmkfuneral.com>

Funeral Service

DEC **16**. 11:00 AM (CT)

Holy Cross Lutheran
3315 11th Avenue
Kearney, NE

Tribute Wall



“ *George P. Kotsiopoulos*

January 29, 2023 at 11:14 AM



“ *Pete and family:
I have only vague memories of this man, here in Kearney, back in the day. They are vague, but they are good. Blessings to the Kotsiopoulos family at this time.*

Lennis Sytsma - December 21, 2017 at 10:48 AM



“ *Please accept my condolences. George and Paula were a fine couple. In PEO we always teased Paula a little about her 'honey' helping her to get ready for a meeting. They are both examples of a life well lived. My thoughts are with you. Kay Horner, Lincoln*

Kay Horner - December 16, 2017 at 12:44 PM



“ *The Burke Family of Iowa and Colorado send their thoughts and condolences. My father always gave George a lot of credit for his success in the cleaning business and without the Kotsiopoulos family we might never have entered the tuxedo business...first in Iowa and then in Colorado.*

Some of my first business memories are being at a cost bureau meeting in Kearney in 1975 and being invited to George and Paula's house for a special Greek meal. I learned so much on that first trip...and fortunately there were many more visits to Kearney over the years building knowledge and relationships.

I will always feel a special bond with George and the Kotsiopoulos family. Thank you for great memories and special friendships.

*With the greatest respect,
Mark and Terri Burke, Fort Collins Co.
Vince and Joan Burke, Naples Fla.*

Mark Burke - December 13, 2017 at 01:30 PM

BL

“ *I knew George because I was his bank officer when he lived in Fort Collins. He was a gentleman with a good sense of humor. There were a few Rockies baseball games he attended with me as my guest. Those are memorable times, many laughs and good fun. I was sorry to read of his passing. Barb Larkin*

Barb Larkin - December 13, 2017 at 12:16 PM

AE

“ Dear Antigone and Jerry,
I loved your dad and was so sorry to hear of his passing. He was so fun in my fitness class years ago and then I would occasionally drop by and visit him at his house.
He was the read deal, so full of love and laughter. You will miss him greatly, I'm sure!

Our love and condolences,

Ann and David Everitt

Ann Everitt - December 13, 2017 at 12:08 PM

DD

“ Donna Dennewitz lit a candle in memory of
George P. Kotsiopoulos



Donna Dennewitz - December 12, 2017 at 12:59 AM

DD

Pete and Ann, I am so sorry to hear of your Father's passing. I will always remember how kind he was to me when I worked at Liberty Cleaners through KHS's DECA program. I learned a lot from him. He was a fair and honest man, and a wonderful Boss. May he rest in Peace.

Donna (Baer) Dennewitz - December 12, 2017 at 01:03 AM