



## Peter Paul Butler Sr.

July 23, 1937 - July 11, 2021

Peter Butler, Sr. passed away on July 11, 2021, at his home in Tallahassee, Florida, at the age of 83.

Peter was born July 23, 1937, in Tuckahoe, NY. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1957 and attained the rank of Senior Master Sergeant. Early in his military career, he met the love of his life, Shirley Ann (Sam) McCabe. Their shared dreams were imagined on the coast of Maine at the Nubble Lighthouse. Peter and Sam were married on August 5, 1961 at St. Mary's Church in Dover, New Hampshire, devoting their lives to each other. Peter proudly served in the Air Force in multiple capacities around the world throughout his 20 years of service, and was a proud member of the 509th Bombardment Wing. He was part of the elite team that worked on-site at Skunk Works, where he was Crew Chief for the SR-71 Blackbird, which remains the world's fastest airplane. He also manned an airstrip in Southeast Asia during the Vietnam War. Peter greatly enjoyed his many years as a recruiter, and served as Sector Supervisor for Florida, Georgia, and Alabama recruiting young people to pursue a career in the Air Force.

After Peter retired in 1977 honorably with multiple commendations, he joined US Senator Richard Stone's team, where he oversaw Veteran and Military Affairs. He and Senator Stone's staff co-authored a book during his tenure entitled "Dear Congressman" that is in the permanent collection at the Library of Congress. After Senate service, he worked in the insurance industry. In 1990, he turned his attention back to public service. Peter joined the State of

Florida and worked with three administrations (Governor's Bob Martinez, Lawton Chiles, and Jeb Bush). He loved sharing stories about his time at the Department of Business and Professional Regulation, where he was the Bureau Chief for the Division of Yacht and Ship brokers. His job responsibilities required him to work at Florida Marinas in disguise, wearing khakis and Topsiders, to identify bad guys and lead enforcement efforts to protect the State. When he completed his second retirement, he and Sam dedicated their lives to family, travel, golf, bowling, and Florida State Athletics. Peter and Sam were active competitors in the National Senior Games and huge supporters of the Tallahassee Senior Center.

Over the years, as the effects of Peter's exposure to agent orange settled in, he battled Diabetes, Parkinson's, and Heart Disease. Still, he never once complained, and his positive outlook on life never wavered. Peter was an active participant in the Capital Regional Cardiac Wellness Program and continued his commitment to serving others by coordinating many Leon County fundraising efforts focused on Heart Healthy Awareness programs. He truly looked forward to time with his friends at Rock Steady Boxing at Sweat Therapy Fitness, and he loved cheering Sam and her teammates on to victory at the weekly bowling league.

Peter and Sam have been active and committed to their Catholic faith and have been longstanding members of Good Shepherd Catholic Church, where they have served God and a wonderful community of believers.

Peter was preceded in his death by his parents, Thomas and Elizabeth, and his older brother Thomas (Buddy). He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Sam. Daughter Maureen Price and husband Billy Ray Price of Moultrie, GA.; son Peter Butler, Jr. and wife Karen, of Tallahassee; seven grandchildren Kaitlyn Stembridge (Gwen), Dominic Price (Anna), Jessica Hof (Eric), Samantha Price, Donovan Price, Anna Grace Butler and Paul Butler, and one great-grandson Judah Price; Sister-in-law Antoinette Butler, of Greenville, NC; sisters, Marcella Fenningham and Mary Wainer.

Bevis Funeral Home is coordinating arrangements. Friends are invited to

attend a funeral mass at Good Shepherd Catholic Church on Friday, July 23rd at 11:00 am. All friends and family are welcome to attend. Following the mass, there will be a reception in the Church Fellowship Hall, then the family will have a private graveside ceremony at the Tallahassee National Cemetery. The Memorial Mass will be lived streamed at 11:00 AM, please go to [www.Goodshepherdparish.org](http://www.Goodshepherdparish.org) to view. In lieu of flowers, the family asks friends to honor his memory by making a contribution to support one of the following two organizations:

Rock Steady Boxing Scholarship Program at Sweat Therapy Fitness, 1122 Thomasville Rd #5, Tallahassee 32303

The Michael J. Fox Foundation to support Parkinson's research, via <http://www.Michaeljfox.org>

Todd Wahlquist with Bevis Funeral Home (850-385-2193, [www.bevisfh.com](http://www.bevisfh.com)) is assisting the family with their arrangements.

# Cemetery Details

## Tallahassee National Cemetery

5015 Apalachee Parkway  
Tallahassee, FL 32311

# Previous Events

## Funeral Mass

JUL 23. 11:00 AM (ET)

Good Shepherd Catholic Church  
4665 Thomasville Rd.  
Tallahassee, FL 32309

# Tribute Wall

DR

“ Uncle Pete loved telling stories and I remember we loved listening. When he came to New Hampshire we knew all would be right with the world. His sense of adventure provided us with joy and laughter and a sense of family that bonded us all. I had my own private adventures with my wonder uncle. You know those times when you were not quite an adult but someone actually treated you like one if even for a day!

I went traveling with a friend and uncle Pete. He worked but he left us to have adventures. We went to Disney and the beach and even joined in a hotel party. We called it Donna and Chris's day out! We owed that day to a man who gave us a special adventure that we always remembered.

Uncle Pete was blessed with charm and wit and he shared his infectious qualities with everyone. My husband Paul and I made memories with uncle Pete in May this year and that time will be always in our mind and hearts.

Remember me with smiles and laughter for that is how I will remember all of you! If you can only remember me with tears than don't remember me at all.

I heard this one day on that trip as we watched little house on the prairie in a hotel in Florida during our trip. It was a sad funeral episode and I remember uncle Pete taking that opportunity to tell some Irish poems. He did however say he liked the poem and I remember saying it was too sad to say. I still believe that but I think it somehow fits since the more you think of Pete the more apt you are to laugh than cry!

Uncle Pete your never going to be forgotten! Rest In Peace we love you!

Donna and Paul

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Donna and Paul Roy - July 20, 2021 at 01:23 AM

MH

“ It is such a privilege to have known Mr. Pete. He was a Hero of and for the United States of America. He was truly a character whose character was impeccable. His smile was infectious and his heart was made of gold. It was such a joy to encounter him and Ms. Sam at the VA Center on March 10, 2021. I will never forget his willingness to stand up for his fellow soldier and veteran. He made a difference in so many lives. He loved to break out in song singing, "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling", as we worked out at Capital Regional Rehab. I will cherish this memory for the rest of my life.

Condolences to Ms. Sam and the family. May you find comfort in the memories and love you hold in your hearts for Mr. Pete.

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**Mario and Bonita Hernandez** - July 19, 2021 at 06:13 PM

MA

“ Did y'all know that man could ♪♪ sing? He sang a song to me asking me to marry him! I never answered him hoping he would never stop singing. I can still hear him. He sure knew how to make you feel special. I will miss his laughter, stories and the way he brought family together. Uncle Pete your song will be forever in my heart.

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**Mary** - July 18, 2021 at 10:30 AM

NS

“ I met Pete in the seventies. Throughout all the years I never saw him without a smile on his face. He was a man that many looked up to. My heart goes out to Sam and the family and many friends.

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**Nancy Spaulding** - July 16, 2021 at 08:17 PM

MB

“ I got to know Pete at Seminole Golf Course usually on Monday Senior Day. Pete loved to talk to me about my son who is career Air Force. I never saw him without a smile on his face and never heard him complain about anything. My condolences to his family. Pete was a fine gentleman.

*Mike Boles*

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**Mike Boles** - July 16, 2021 at 06:50 PM

KK

*I have sat next to Pete for over 28 years at FSU Baseball. I will never forget your laugh my friend. Your community loved and appreciated you . I will miss our conversation and our high fives. I felt it was honor to have know you and shared in many a time at the ball park. I will think of you often and smile and know I was lucky to know you. Much Love my friend. Baseball friends for ever Kenny Kleinpeter*

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**Ken Kleinpeter** - July 18, 2021 at 02:09 PM

PL

“ I first met Pete working for DBPR in the early 1990s and will always remember his joy for life – with a twinkle in his eyes, kindness to others – irrespective of their station in life, and genuine personal interest in people – always taking a moment to check in when he passed through. A role model to aspire to. Saw him intermittently over the decades since, but whenever we crossed paths, those attributes were always present and evident. He loved others well.

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**Paul Ledford** - July 16, 2021 at 09:40 AM

MY

“ *Minnie Yarbrough lit a candle in memory of  
Peter Paul Butler Sr.*



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**Minnie Yarbrough** - July 15, 2021 at 04:28 PM