



Donald (Pete) A. Napier

March 16, 2008

Donald A. "Pete" Napier, 83, of Camillus and Boynton Beach, FL died peacefully Sunday in Boynton Beach, FL. Born in Syracuse he graduated from Camillus High School and attended Syracuse University. He served in the US Army during WWII in the 440th Engineers Corp in the European Theater of Operations in Normandy and the Battle of the Bulge and continued in the reserves until his retirement from the 403rd Civil Affairs Company in 1967.

He was a member and Past Potentate of Tigris Shrine Temple, a 60 year member of Morningstar Lodge F&AM #524, a member, P.D. and Imp. of Syracuse Court #79 Royal Order of Jesters; 32nd degree Scottish Rite; a 50 year member of Solvay-Geddes-Camillus Kiwanis, a member and past Commander of Herbert D. Rossberg VFW Post #8664, a life member of American Legion Knifetown Post #1540, a 60 year member of Marcellus Grange, a life/charter member of Camillus Elks Lodge #2367, former Town Chairmen of Camillus Republican Committee from 1960-1980. He was a former Camillus Town Justice from 1954-64, and a former newspaper distributor for Herald Journal from 1947-1977.

His memberships in Florida include Gold Coast and Treasure Coast Billiken Clubs, Boynton Beach Congregational Church and associate member of the Amara Shriners. Pete was the director of Onondaga County War Memorial from 1964-85.

He was a member of Immanuel United Methodist Church and had been predeceased by his wife of 41 years, Marion, in 2003.

Survived by two sons Donald P. (Linda) Napier of Manlius and Edward R. (Barb) Sessler; a daughter Barbara J. Sessler of Syracuse; four grandchildren, Alyssa and Morgan Napier, Marc and Eric Sessler; a great grandson, Owen Sessler.

Services will be 11 am Friday at Immanuel United Methodist Church, 303 Kasson Rd, Camillus. Calling hours are 1 to 4 pm and 6 to 8 pm with a Masonic service at 8 pm Thursday at B.L. Bush & Sons Funeral Home, 10 Genesee St, in the village of Camillus. Spring burial will be in Maplewood Cemetery, Camillus.

Contributions in lieu of flowers to Shriners Hospital, 516 Carew St., Springfield, MA 01104. Please sign his guestbook at www.BLBUSH.com

Tribute Wall

RN

“ I really enjoyed getting to see Pete and Marion at the Napier Reunion at Lake Cumberland State Park, Jamestown, KY. Pete and Marion came for several of those reunions. Wonderful person.

Ron Napier - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

CJ

“ My heartfelt condolences for your loss. I knew Pete for many years when he was at the War Memorial and I was at the Civic Center with the Cultural Resources Council. He helped us make the Festival of Nations the great success at the WM that it was. In later years Pete and Marion and I shared many good times at IAAM District Meetings and National Conventions. We all enjoyed a wonderful relationship with Mid Grood Perry, a facility manager from Buffalo. Good people doing good work, helping others and enjoying life along the way. Like most parents Pete and Marion bragged about "the kids." They loved you and I'm sure you'll now miss Pete as you've missed Marion these past years. Smile when you think of them. I'm sure they will be smiling back. Sincerely, Carol T. Jeschke

Carol Jeschke - May 10, 2008 at 12:00 AM

BN

“ I was very sorry to hear of Pete's passing. I was in Florida and could not attend his services. I was one of Pete's paperboys and I am very happy that we were able to meet with Pete and have lunches the past couple of years. Also I was one of his Gold Diggers basketball players. I'll never forget Pete or the impact he had on my life as well as that of all his paperboys.

Bob Nolan - April 09, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ My best to Pete's family. I was one of the Herald paper boys in the 1950's. I believe Pete said that his nickname came from his dog as a child, "Pete", which his father carried up the steep Camillus hill in his pocket. Pete took an interest in me as he did in all of us, and I am grateful for that.

John McLoughlin - March 30, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ To all the family of Donald (Pete) Napier. Our deepest sympathy. Cousins, Audrey Estey, Beverly Reinhardt, Jim and Dottie Bailey

james bailey - March 25, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Dear Napier Family, With deep sympathy. Your fathers cousin, Mrs. Blanchard Crysler

Mrs. Eva Crysler - March 23, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SS

“ Sorry for your loss. I have fond memories of Pete taking his time in giving me sound advice about the Arena management business. He will certainly be missed by all. Deepest sympathy to the Family.

Scott Smalling - March 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SC

“ Don, Sorry to hear about the loss of your father. My thoughts and prayers go out to you and your family. Siren Chudgar, MD '96

Siren Chudgar - March 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MZ

“ On Behalf of the Ontario Division of NY District Kiwanis, our sincere sympathy and our prayers go out to Pete's family. Pete was an integral part of the success of this Division for over 50 years, and will be missed dearly and thought of often. His contributions were endless to our community and with our service projects~ With sincere sympathy, Melanie Ziel Lt. Governor 2007-2008 Ontario Division NY District of Kiwanis International

Melanie Ziel - March 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RL

“ I was most fortunate to know Pete Napier as a kind, decent, resourceful man and a really good guy. My prayers are with his family. Dick

Richard Lowenberg - March 21, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MD

“ Don & Family: This is sent with deepest sympathy & fond memories of your Dad. I most vividly remember our 1st meeting at the War Memorial when he treated Elaine and me as family & our young sons like royalty! I also remember how proud you were whenever anyone remarked that you were just like your Dad - rightfully so! Our thoughts & prayers are with you. The DeRitis Family

Mark DeRitis - March 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JJ

“ So sad to hear of Pete's passing. What a wonderful caring human being he was. He did a great job running the War Memorial. I will always remember his smile & caring ways. Pete's life should be an example to everyone on how to care for others. The world needs more Pete Napiers. Pete will be missed.

Jim Jerome - March 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AK

“ What a pleasure to have known Pete! You all were truly blessed to have a grand gentleman for your family over the years. Most respectful sentiments. Sincerely, Tony Kreuzer

Anton F. "Tony" Kreuzer - March 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

AI

“ I'm very sorry to hear about Pete's passing, he was an unforgettable guy in the best possible way. Adam Iskander

Adam Iskander - March 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ Don & family; we are very sorry to hear about the loss of your father. Your dad and my grandfather built Burma Rd. on Otisco Lake! He was a great man and always very cordial to me. He will be missed. Sorry we cannot make it to the services. Our deepest sympathies - The Carpenters.

Jeff Carpenter - March 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

DC

“ Dear Don, Linda, & family- After living next to your Dad for 24 years, we find it very hard to believe he will not be returning to the house next door. We will miss how he loved seeing our grandsons playing, how he loved his special maple tree in the back yard that he planted when Don was born, and how he loved his home, family, and friends. We will miss our Thursday dinners at Denny's with our 20% senior discount, our Friday night dinners at Doug's and our happy hours under the summer nights. We were always amazed at the number of people who would say hello to your Dad wherever we would take him and his reply of "it is good to be seen". We will miss him.

David & Nancy Constantino - March 20, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RJ

“ We have many fond and respectful memories of Pete. Milton as a Shriner brother and Shirley within the Republican Party. Pete was an honoraable, loyal individual as was his wife. He contributed much to the community of Onondaga County and we hope he had several years of enjoyment in his retirement. He truly has heard the words: "well done, thou good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of My presence"

Rev. Milton and Shirley Jefferson - March 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RC

“ Don, Pete was a wonderful person, and Brother. He always had a smile, and was always a pleasure to be around. He will be missed in so many respects. I'm glad that I had an opportunity to meet him and be around him. My deepest sympathies to the family.

Ray Cruz - March 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

J#

“ Many times I called Pete a Napper(Which is what we call them in KY) I would tell him a Napier is a Napper with \$2 in his pocket. Will miss him dearly, had MANY good times with Pete. Rest well my good friend, you will be greatly missed.

JACK JACKSON ROJ #172 - March 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RR

“ To the Napier Family: I had the pleasure of taking a flight with Mr. Napier back in December. He was on his way to Florida and I was on my way to North Carolina. You never know who will be seated next to on a flight but I knew it was going to be an entertaining flight when after the flight attendant had gone through the pre-flight speech, which she struggled through, Mr. Napier looked at me and said “I missed part of that ... do you think she could repeat it?” I laughed so hard. I knew then I was in for a great flight. He told me of his great friends in Florida that he was going on a cruise with in a few weeks. He told me of his many years at the War Memorial and how he met Frank Sinatra and got his wife front row seats for the event. By the end of the flight I found out that my uncle had peddled papers for him! He lived such a full and wonderful life and thoroughly entertained me for the entire flight. While I only knew Mr. Napier for less than 2 hours he made such an impression on me that I had to write and tell you that I was happy to have met him and taken that flight with him. I will keep you and your family in my prayers.

Rosemary Riley - March 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CW

“ Very sorry to hear about Pete. He was a good friend and a real gentlemen. Cal Webb

Cal Webb - March 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NB

“Pete” Napier was the 1st person I ever worked for, and that was back in 1958, when I peddled the Syracuse Herald-Journal Newspaper door-to-door as a teenager. We kept our close relationship throughout the years. Pete's word, in all his worldly dealings, was "golden". With Pete, you never needed any contracts in writing. I look forward to see Pete again, in a much better place...called Heaven. Pete is there all ready, as he has earned his eternal reward for all his goods deeds on this planet called Earth!

Niles Bell - March 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

MP

“ Our prayers are with you. He was a gentle giant amongst people. He will be missed. Martin & Barb Pine Roy & Lynn Pine Russell Pine Margaret Zimmer (Aunt Peg)

Martin Pine - March 19, 2008 at 12:00 AM

KZ

“ Sorry to hear about your loss. I have many fond memories of your Dad he treated me like a son during the good old days at the War Memorial.

Kevin Zappia - March 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NO

“ So sorry to hear about Pete. I sure will miss him. I am in Florida, so will not be able to be with you. Pete's cousin, Norma

Norma Oliver - March 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

NP

“ Very sorry to learn of Pete's passing. Patti and I will be in Florida the days of the service and calling hours. When I think of my time in County government , the memories of Pete always are part of those good times. He ran the War Memorial with a smile and his word was the only contract you needed. He will be missed. Nick Pirro.

Nick Pirro - March 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CA

“ very sorry to hear off pete's passing,we were cousins and were in school together in camillus.have lost touch over the years,as in many cases,me being out of state for 4o years.

c.j.[pete] amidon - March 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

SF

“ Don and Family- I am very sorry to hear about the loss of your father.. Shawna Fleming (POMCO Co-Worker)

Shawna Fleming - March 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JS

“ I am very sorry for your loss. Don was my newspaper manager many many years ago. I have never forgotten his kindness.

James Shepard - March 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Don and Family, We would like to express our sincere sympathy for the loss of your Dad. We are sure that you will miss both his sense of humor and positive attitude towards life. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and look forward to seeing you in April. John, Peggy and Sam

John, Peggy and Sam Brandano - March 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

CM

“ *Pete was a fine person. I only knew him for about 10 years. He will be missed.* ”

Chris Menefee - March 18, 2008 at 12:00 AM

RG

“ *sorry to hear Pete died. Was a great man.* ”

richard Goodale - March 17, 2008 at 12:00 AM