



Victor E. Petris

November 8, 1944 - November 21, 2014

Victor E. Petris, age 70 of Winter Park, Florida, formerly of Woodbury Heights and Camden, NJ passed away on Friday, November 21, 2014. Born November 8, 1944, he was the son of the late Walter and Mary Petris. Vic graduated from Woodbury High School in 1964 and recently attended his 50th class reunion. He was a veteran of the US Marine Corps, having served in Vietnam (1967-68). He fought in the Battle of Hue City and received a Purple Heart. In 1978 Vic moved to Florida. He graduated from the University of Central Florida and worked for 30 years as a legal investigator with the law firm of Troutman, Irvin, Green, et al. Vic was a proud Marine and an avid sports fan. He especially loved the Philadelphia teams and those of his alma mater, UCF.

He is survived by cousins Maureen Hoffman and Edward Zajac. Vic will be sadly missed by his many friends in NJ, PA and Florida.

Alumnus Victor Petris recently chose to honor his experience as a student and the value he places on education with a very generous bequest to the college.

Vic Petris was not a typical undergraduate when he enrolled at Florida Technological University, now the University of Central Florida, in 1977.

Previously, he had served in the U.S. Marine Corps, achieving the rank of Sergeant and working in the Pentagon, the White House and Camp David. He

also had been to Vietnam, where he sustained injuries in combat during the Battle of Hue City. After recovering at hospitals in Japan and Philadelphia, he took on “probably the toughest thing I did while I was in the Marine Corps” – the role of notifying parents of the loss of their son in battle. Petris completed his four years as a Marine on a decidedly more upbeat note. During his last week of service, he escorted Miss America to President Nixon’s Inaugural Ball.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Petris enrolled part-time in a Community College near his hometown of Woodbury, NJ. He also worked as an agent with the U.S. Dept. of Justice. After four years, he completed his Associates degree and started looking for a place to complete a Bachelor’s degree. “I had a friend in Orlando who I’d visited a couple of times,” Petris shared. “He suggested I try FTU, so I applied and was accepted, and I came down. “he remembers FTU as being very compact in the late 1970’s, with small classrooms and small numbers of students. Yet the campus left a big impression. “ I had some of the greatest professors at that time”, “Petris said, recalling one in particular who arranged an especially meaningful internship for him. “I have great remembrances of the way I was treated. I was treated very well.”

Petris studied legal studies and criminal justice at FTU and completed his Bachelor’s degree in 1978. He remained in Central Florida, living and working in Winter Park. Over the years, he watched with pride as FTU became UCF and eventually the second largest university in the country.

“I believe heavily in education,” Petris said, “We need to educate our children and we need to educate our children and we need to educate them properly. UCF, in my view, is doing just that.”

To honor his experience at FTU and the value he places on education, Petris

recently named the UCF College of Health and Public Affairs Scholarship Fund as the sole beneficiary of his estate. The college houses the university's legal studies and criminal justice programs.

"Mr. Petris' commitment to helping COHPA students fulfill their educational and career goals is truly amazing, 'said Mike Frumkin, dean of the college, 'his bequest will allow us to support many students who might not otherwise complete their education ~ allowing them to fulfill their dreams and make untold contributions to their communities."

This year, Petris will celebrate his 30th year as a legal investigator with the Winter Park-based law firm Troutman, Williams, Irvin Green Helms, Polich and Hemphill. The position clearly suits him and takes full advantage of his keen sense of detail. "'At this law firm, legal assistants handle a multitude of issues until it needs litigation, "he explained, "You have to make sure all facets of all the cases are covered. "This includes compiling information such as photos and witness interviews and working closely and clients.

Petris has another accomplishment to celebrate as well. Through diet changes, daily exercise and a tremendous dose of discipline, he has lost 125lbs in the past year. As a result, he no longer has diabetes and high blood pressure.

In between working – and working out – Petris manages to find time to read four to five newspapers a day. He also reads about a book a week and usually has several others going at the same time. He said his passion for reading and learning began in grade school during weekly visits to the Bookmobile, a traveling library. "It was a Godsend, "he said. "I think it carried me. It taught me a lot of things and gave me a broader spectrum to pull from when needed."

It's not a surprising thought, coming from a man who considers education to

be one of life's greatest values.

In Lieu of Flowers, please consider a Memorial Contribution to the University
of Central Florida
Medical School.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

DEC 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

DeGusipe Funeral Home & Crematory Maitland Chapel

9001 N. Orlando Ave

Maitland, FL 32751

(407) 695-2273

todd@degusipe.com

<https://www.degusipefuneralhome.com>

Tribute Wall

PJ

“ Vic was my boyfriend in the late 1970's and I am sad to hear of his passing. I decorated your apartment for you then and we had some fun times together .

Pamela Willis Jones - June 24, 2016 at 12:47 PM

LB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lisa McDonald Barr - December 08, 2014 at 12:22 PM

LB

“ 1 file added to the album *New Album Name*



Lisa McDonald Barr - December 08, 2014 at 12:17 PM

JM

“ I still can't believe you're gone. You were such a wonderful friend to me ...to our family, helping us through the most tragic time of our lives. No matter how much time elapsed between conversations, it was like we just spoke the day before. Honestly, Vic I don't know what I would have done without you at times and I feel so blessed that you were a part of our lives.

Rest in Peace my friend...Hug my big sweet boy when you see him!

Jamie McWilliams

Jamie McWilliams - November 25, 2014 at 03:58 PM

MG

“ *Semper Fi, my friend... Rest in Peace.*
Mike Galyean
1st Marine Division Assoc.

Mike Galyean - November 25, 2014 at 10:45 AM

 Gary
Covell

“ *I was very sorry to hear of Vic's passing. I have known him for 35 years both professionally and personally. My prayers go to his family.*
Gary Covell



Gary Covell - November 24, 2014 at 11:56 AM