



Mr Peter "Pete" Guarisco

December 12, 1921 - October 28, 2016

Peter "Pete" Guarisco, 94, of Montgomery, AL, died peacefully on October 28, 2016, surrounded by family. He was born December 12, 1921, in Tampa, FL to Sebastiano and Rosario (Messina) Guarisco, both Sicilian immigrants to historic Ybor City, Hillsborough County, FL. He was a resident of Tallahassee, FL for 55 years. Mr. Guarisco was a member of the "Greatest Generation" with service in the US Army in the Pacific Theater during WWII and was awarded the Purple Heart.

He received his undergraduate degree from the University of Florida in economics and his law degree from the University of Miami. An attorney, lobbyist, and the Executive Director of the Florida Land Title Association for many years, he received a 50-year award for membership in the Florida Bar Association. Mr. Guarisco was always generous to perform pro bono legal work for those in need and did not retire until he was 85 years old. He served on the Leon County School Board during a tumultuous time of teachers strike in the 1960s. He was a past Lieutenant Governor for Kiwanis International; a Freemason (Jackson Lodge #1 F. & A.M.) and Shriner for 58 years. Proud of his Italian heritage, he enjoyed the friendship and camaraderie of members of the Tallahassee Italian Club. He raised prize-winning camellias and served as a past president of the local camellia society. Mr. Guarisco was also a connoisseur of good food and a master chef; he enjoyed cooking and hosting dinner parties for family, church friends and others. He and his wife enjoyed

traveling throughout parts of Europe, Asia, South America and Canada.

Mr. Guarisco remained strong in his Christian faith and was a consistent member of East Hill Baptist Church for over 50 years, where he served as both deacon and men's Sunday School teacher. He was a loving husband and father, and took delight in his two grandsons.

Mr. Guarisco is survived by his devoted wife of 70 years, Norma Viera Guarisco; two daughters, Sylvia Alford (Randy) and Kathryn Josey, two grandsons, Pace Alford and Michael Josey; a sister, Mary Guarisco Vilchez; and a number of nephews and nieces.

A service for the celebration of his life will be held at 1:30 p.m. on Tuesday, November 1, 2016 in the Chapel of East Hill Baptist Church. The interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, a donation may be made to East Hill Baptist Church in Mr. Guarisco's memory.

Cemetery Details

Tallahassee Memory Gardens

4037 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32303
(850) 562-1518
<https://www.abbeyfh.com/>

Previous Events

Service

NOV 1. 1:30 PM (ET)

East Hill Baptist Church
912 Miccosukee Road
Tallahassee, FL 32308

Tribute Wall

VP

“ I'd had no contact with Mr. Guarisco since I was an FSU student working in radio news in Tallahassee. Each week he, as School Board Chair and member, and I would have a taped conversation about education issues in Leon County. In part, my contact with him and his enthusiasm for public schools led to my going into education later as a professional. My sincere condolences to his family.

Vern Pickup-Crawford
Wellington, Fla

Vern Pickup-Crawford - November 08, 2016 at 12:24 PM

JT

“ Sylvia, Kathy, and Mrs Guarisco,
My condolences to you and your family on your loss. An outstanding man has left but I know you are comforted that he is with Jesus and free of this world's burdens. I pray many fond memories fill your hearts at this time.

Best wishes,
Jack Turner

Jack Turner - October 31, 2016 at 09:25 AM

BE

“ *Dear Norma*

I was so saddened to read Pete's obituary in today's Democrat. He was such a sweet man and you were so devoted to him. The two of you were always so great to have our Senate retirees in your home every year and I have really missed that. Tried to call you several times but no number is listed in the phone book. Now I see where you all were in Alabama. I hope that I will be able to be at Pete's service.

I love you!

Betty Edwards

BettyEdwards - October 30, 2016 at 12:13 PM