



## Peter David Esposito

February 5, 1939 - September 12, 2015

Peter David Esposito, of Northford, died September 12th at Smilow Cancer Hospital. Born in New Haven, CT on Feb. 5, 1939, the son of the late Louise and Andrew Esposito Sr. of Hamden, CT. He is survived by his wife Susan Felis Esposito, his sons David Esposito (Sajila) of San Diego and Derek Esposito of San Francisco, his daughter Krista Polinsky (Bill) of North Haven, his brother Andrew Esposito (Judy) and sister Ann Gaetano, both of Woodbridge CT, and grandchildren Luna and Alexander (Bill & Krista).

Peter grew up in Hamden and attended school there until the age of 13. Partly due to the influence of a nun, he felt a monastical calling and attended Saint John's Atonement Seminary in Montour Falls, NY for five years. Although very spiritual and deeply devoted to Jesus, he had a change of heart and did not enter the priesthood. After graduating from the seminary, he attended Southern Connecticut State Teachers College to pursue a teaching degree. A year later he joined the Army and became an infantryman.

A short time after leaving the army, Peter was exposed to the printing industry by his Uncle Fritz who mentored him. He went to live with him in Chicago where he learned about printing and graphic design. Upon returning to Connecticut, he worked for Columbia Printing Company where he quickly rose to the top. Peter then went on to establish Brother's Advertising & Graphic Design in New Haven with his brother Andrew. Peter was the creative director and worked with some of the top companies in the state such as Stanley

Tools, Sealy, Hamilton Beach and Heublein as well as small local businesses.

Always impeccably dressed, quick witted, and outgoing, Peter made many friends and touched people wherever he went. He picked up a few nicknames along the way, most notably Chico and Paco. Chico was a name he chose himself when he and his buddies played baseball. They all decided to take the name of their favorite ball player, his being shortstop Chico Carrasquel. The name stuck and to this day all his childhood friends still call him by that name. Later the name Paco was given to him because it was thought by many that he looked like Al Pacino from the movie Serpico. This was complicated further by his mother and many others in his family calling him by his middle name, David, while others called him Peter. The many names fit the many facets of his personality.

Music held a special place in Peter's life. Even when he had no furniture to speak of, he had an outstanding sound system. His favorite music was jazz and he especially admired the work of Miles Davis, Dexter Gordon and John Coltrane. Two highlights in his life were when he met Miles and Dexter, gave them each a dozen roses and had them sign posters he had of them.

Peter cherished his historic home in Northford, which was painstakingly restored and beautified. His love for the Southwest and Native Americans is evident throughout this beautiful home. His appreciation for art, beauty, and design was depicted in every aspect of his life. He was a deeply creative and spiritual man who strived to get to know everyone he met, not just who they were on the outside, but more importantly who they were on the inside. This quality alone would have made him a wonderful priest, but instead made him so much more.

His love for the arts and water drew Peter to frequently travel to Bermuda, Italy, Santa Fe and most often Watch Hill, RI where he and his wife Susan

spent a great deal of their spare time. Since retiring over 10 years ago, Peter could often be found in his studio painting Native American inspired art and creating unique stone stacks from rocks he collected while walking on the beach. He also enjoyed cooking his favorite Italian foods, reading, and spending time with family and friends. For many years Peter was dedicated to teaching religious education to 7th and 8th grade students of Saint Francis Cabrini church in North Haven. Peter was passionate about sharing his spirituality, faith and love of Jesus, especially with the youth. He received tremendous pleasure in having a positive influence on his students.

After being diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia on 4/1/13, Peter valiantly fought this disease with everything he had and was one of the oldest, successful stem cell recipients. Ironically, he was cancer free at the time of his death, his body having been weakened by immunosuppressant drugs and subsequently overtaken by infection. Our family is forever grateful to his hematology doctor - Nikolai Padoltsev, his bone marrow transplant doctor – Stuart Seropian and the entire staff on Smilow's 11th floor who lovingly cared for him throughout his illness.

A private memorial service in honor of Peter and his life will be held on Saturday, November 14, 2015.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Leukemia Lymphoma Society online at [lls.org](http://lls.org) or mailed to LLS of Connecticut, 100 Pearl St. #1432, Hartford, Ct. 06103.

# Tribute Wall

TN

“ *peter was a student at Montour during the period of my time at the school It is my belief that he played the role of brpther orchid at the school it is also my belief that we had a talk on language and what the effect pf words can mean when writing only recently I heard of his passing he lived a full life and that is so important now at 77 I sure hope to live a full life, to the family and friends my deep condolences and prayer for his eternal joy tommy nawn, class of 1957, Montour falls*

---

**thomas nawn** - March 13, 2016 at 07:09 PM



Thomas  
Nawn

“ *i knew peter fro saint john seminary peter was a year ahead of me i recall him as very smart and a good actor he performed in a school play i extend my condolence to family and friends may his soul rest in eternal joy and light, sincerely. tommy nawn, class of 1957*

---

**Thomas Nawn** - January 12, 2016 at 11:40 AM

RH

“ Dear Susan,

*Our hearts are heavy with shock and sadness hearing of Peter's passing. "Makoo," as we affectionately called each other, injected passion, love, caring, and generosity into our lives. We somehow became much more aware of the fullness of life when in his presence. I would always look forward to our periodic get-togethers. We chatted about music, design, art, food, cars, and life—and he had the most amazing anecdotes to tell. He was also a snazzy dresser—always impeccably groomed. He was just a joy to be around. Yeon and I will miss him dearly. His spirit will remain cherished in our hearts and an influence in our lives.*

*Long live his memory.*

*Susan, if there is anything we can do to help ease your pain, please don't hesitate to let us know.*

*Grief stricken,  
Ritz and Yeon Henton*

---

**Ritz Henton** - November 06, 2015 at 08:48 AM

LC

“ Susan, I've been thinking of you since we spoke on Sunday. Peter was such a special man and a wonderful friend. He will always be in my heart. With my deepest sympathy to you and your family, I send healing thoughts and love, Linda

---

**Linda Colman** - November 02, 2015 at 10:08 PM

SB

“ Susan, I am very sorry to hear of Peters passing. I want to share with you a small memory of Peter. I first met Peter in the 70s. He was a kind and generous person. He helped me get a job when I was in high school. I also remember when I graduated in 1975 he gave me his car for the night a brand new Lincoln Continental with a little money under the floor mat so my girlfriend and I could have a nice night. He always treated me well. Even though he was approximately 18 years older than me he was a good friend. I am sorry our paths took different directions as I lost a friend who provided me guidance and knowledge. Again I am very sorry for your loss, however You, Peter and your family are in my prayers.

Stephen Boughton

---

Stephen Boughton - October 08, 2015 at 02:52 PM

SU

Thank you for sharing that memory Stephen. I had not heard that story, though it does not surprise me. Peter was the most generous person I have ever known. Thank you for your kind thoughts and prayers.

---

Susan - October 28, 2015 at 02:27 PM

 Linda Livolsi

“ Oh Susan, Peter will be missed by all who were lucky enough to know him. He lives in our hearts and our memories.

---

Linda Livolsi - October 01, 2015 at 08:00 PM

SU

Thank you Linda!

---

Susan - October 28, 2015 at 02:27 PM