



## Peter J. Keveney

January 2, 1960 - June 26, 2022

Peter J. Keveney, 62, who befriended many during a long career in the restaurant business, died June 26 at his home in North Haven. Pete, who showed great strength in taking on two major cancers in the last two years, was the son of the late Carolyn (Olive) Keveney and William J. Keveney. He is survived by his daughters, Carolyn Keveney and Kristen Keveney, both of Virginia; his brother, William Keveney III of Beverly Hills, Calif.; and his sister, Katherine Keveney of North Haven. He was predeceased by his brother Thomas Keveney.

Pete, who was born in New Haven at the Hospital of St. Raphael and attended St. Rita School and Notre Dame High School, was a familiar and welcoming face to so many people in North Haven, Hamden and New Haven. He met many of them through a long and impressive culinary career in which he worked as a chef and short-order cook while skillfully performing many other restaurant duties. He enjoyed preparing delicious, satisfying meals for customers, who invariably became friends.

Across the decades, Pete showed off his talents at a range of New Haven-area establishments, including Fitzwilly's, Big Top, Demery's, One Broadway and The Brewery in the 1970s and 1980s and, in recent years, The Colony Inn and famed Glenwood Drive-In.

In the 1990s, Pete, who had moved with his family to Fredericksburg, Va., worked at a number of restaurants, including Ruby Tuesday, eventually establishing himself as a chef at the highly regarded Riverview Restaurant. He moved back to Connecticut in the early 2000s, renewing friendships and creating new ones through his work and as a regular rider on the Whitney Avenue bus line.

Pete formed lifelong bonds with those he met at work and in school. Many of Pete's strongest friendships trace their roots to his years as a Boy Scout in Hamden's Troop 8. He participated in troop alumni activities and remembered the tiniest details of youthful Boy Scout experiences, including fun times spent at Camp Sequassen in northwestern Connecticut.

Pete was a big fan of the Boston Red Sox and Fenway Park; his main Facebook photo shows him in Fenway's Green Monster seats with the beautiful green ball field behind him. He cheered on the Dallas Cowboys from boyhood onward and loved attending Quinnipiac College hockey games. Blueberry-flavored coffee was part of his daily regimen.

Pete enjoyed playing video games – “The Legend of Zelda” was an all-time favorite – but music was his real entertainment passion. Pete was a huge Bruce Springsteen fan, attending many of The Boss's concerts over the years, and he was devoted to The Grateful Dead and its musical successor, Dead & Company. He was scheduled to attend a Dead & Company concert with friends in early July, with plans to see the band play in New York and Virginia later in the month.

Pete loved to get together with friends and he traveled to Massachusetts, Maine and Virginia in the past year to visit them. He was able to do that despite two recent cancer battles, each with significant surgery accompanied by chemotherapy and radiation. Pete showed courage and resolve in dealing

with cancer, just as he had with earlier life challenges. He bravely shared his health milestones via Facebook, keeping friends and family up to date on his progress and sharing photos illustrating the toll of the disease.

Pete's ability to get back to a regular life after being treated by skilled and humane medical professionals at Smilow Cancer Hospital at Yale New Haven Health is a testament to his spirit. Even during the toughest times, he continued to share his wry sense of humor by regularly posting funny – and occasionally silly – memes, jokes and sayings on Facebook, giving friends and family welcome moments of lightness during challenging times.

To leave a message of condolence for Pete, please go to [www.siskbrothers.com](http://www.siskbrothers.com). In lieu of flowers, please make any donation in Pete's memory to Closer to Free Fund for Smilow Cancer Hospital, YNHH Development, P.O. Box 1849, New Haven, CT 06508 ([www.givetoynhh.org](http://www.givetoynhh.org)) or St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, P.O. Box 1000, Dept. 142, Memphis, TN 38148-0142 ([www.stjude.org](http://www.stjude.org); Pete's Memorial ID: 23020319).

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated Friday, Sept. 2, 2022, at 11 a.m. at Divine Mercy Parish, St. Rita Church, 1620 Whitney Ave., Hamden. Burial will follow at St. Bernard Cemetery, New Haven. Calling hours at Sisk Brothers Funeral Home, 3105 Whitney Ave., Hamden, will be held before the funeral Mass on Sept. 2 from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

# Cemetery Details

## St. Bernard

520 Columbus Ave.  
New Haven, CT

# Previous Events

## Calling hours

SEP 2. 9:00 AM - 10:30 AM (ET)

Sisk Brothers Funeral Home  
3105 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT 06518  
(203) 288-7114  
[siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net](mailto:siskfuneral@sbcglobal.net)

## Funeral service

SEP 2. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Rita Church  
1620 Whitney Ave.  
Hamden, CT

# Tribute Wall

AS

“ the news of Pete's passing was so unexpected. Pete seemed to doing so much better. I miss him so much.  
I just read the story of the waterbugs. I'm sure some have heard it. The waterbugs live underwater. Every now and then one of them climb up the stem of a lily pad and disappear. The waterbugs got together one day and agreed that the next one of them would return and tell the others where he had gone.  
But when the next waterbug climbed the lily pad stem and broke through the surface of the water, he was so amazed. He had turned into a dragonfly. He could fly everywhere, everything was so beautiful. He wanted to return, but couldn't break the surface of the water. The waterbug was dismayed but he understood. He knew the rest of the waterbugs would all one day join him and share the beauty and amazement of his new world.  
We grieve the loss of Pete who seems to have disappeared. Let's hold onto the thought that we'll see him again.

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**Andrew Schaaf** - August 13, 2022 at 04:52 PM

LD

“ I'm so sad to hear about Peter. He lived across the street from me on Northside road and we started kindergarten together at Ridge Road School. All of us kids played together and decorated our bikes each year to ride in a parade I think ended up at a picnic area. I was lucky to have reconnected briefly with Peter just recently on Facebook. May he R.I.P. and Blessings to the Keaveny family 🙏❤️

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**Laura DeRisi-Purvis** - July 19, 2022 at 03:48 PM

Jl

“Pete and I met about 5 years ago when I started working at Glennwood. We immediately bonded on the fact that we both loved the greatful dead. We became good friends and went to many shows together. One of my fondest memories was when we were together at Madison Square Garden in NYC for dead and Company 11/1/19 and they played "Mr. Charlie" Pete broke into one of his happy dances and we boogied together and laughed all night long. I'll cherish that memory forever along with many more. Pete was also a big help to me in my life and was a mentor in a lot of ways. I am beyond greatful to have gotten a chance to spend a few years being his friend.  
Rest in Paradise My brother and I will see you again on the other side.

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**John M. Iacobucci** - July 18, 2022 at 11:36 AM

TL

“Pete and I go back 50+ years beginning as classmates at Saint Rita's and continuing through Notre Dame High School. Always remember the rides on the "West Haven via Congress" bus and the "J" bus coming home. Happy that I ran into him a month or so ago after not seeing him for a couple of years.  
Rest In Peace. Until we meet again.

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**tim lee** - July 15, 2022 at 09:05 AM

DO

“Pete will be missed by his many friends especially in Hamden. I think I've known Pete most of my life, and he was always part of the crew growing up. I'll never forget how happy and thankful he was when I sent him a Red Sox facemask during the pandemic. It's the little things you remember. My deepest condolences to all of his family and many friends

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**Doris** - July 12, 2022 at 06:11 PM

JP

“ *God Bless You Pete! you will be missed Jim Pascarella*

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**Jim Pascarella** - July 12, 2022 at 12:57 PM

JO

“ *Peter, thanks for being a friend to my brother and I. No doubt we'll see you again some day. My best to the Keveney family. John O'Connell*

*"I have spent my life seeking all that's still unsung  
Bent my ear to hear the tune and closed my eyes to see  
When there were no strings to play you played to me"*

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**John O'Connell** - July 11, 2022 at 04:17 PM

MO

“ *A good soul and a life well lived  
Rest In Peace my friend.*

*Mark OConnell*

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**Mark OConnell** - July 11, 2022 at 03:53 PM