



Pete Michael Dunbar

February 16, 1945 - October 20, 2019

Peter Michael Dunbar died peacefully Saturday morning, October 20, 2019, at home with his daughter and dedicated neighbors following a long struggle with esophageal cancer.

Pete was born February 15, 1945, in Buffalo, NY. After living in Dallas, TX, Washington, DC, and Raleigh, NC, Pete ultimately moved with his wife, Nancy Wilson, to their Oxford home in 1976.

Pete graduated from the University of Detroit in 1967 with a B.S. degree in electrical engineering. After graduation, Pete was awarded a National Defense Education Act Fellowship and completed a M.S. Science at North Carolina State University in 1969, studying pyrolytic deposition of thin insulator films. For his post Masters degree, he worked for Texas Instruments as a Cooperative Education Student and then as an engineer at the Applied Physics Laboratory of Johns Hopkins University.

Pete was later appointed as an assistant professor of electrical engineering at Howard University while simultaneously consulting at the Naval Research Laboratory. After four years with Howard, he returned to graduate school at NC State University to obtain his PhD studying semiconductor device theory and the fundamental limitations of solar cells.

Following his graduate work, Pete accepted an appointment to the Annapolis branch of the Illinois Institute of Technology where he served as a civilian contractor to the US Air Force coordinating the upgrade and standardization of NATO wide air traffic control systems and while also serving as a visiting faculty member at the US Naval Academy.

Pete deemed the travel related to NATO incompatible with family life and the birth of his children, so he took a position with the State of Maryland's Power Plant Research Program in the Department of Natural Resources. Pete served for 32 years with the Power Plant Research Program, 24 years as the director, retiring from DNR in 2015.

Always an active and engaged citizen, Pete served as an Oxford Town Commissioner from 2007 to 2013, on the Oxford Board of Appeals, and as a representative of Oxford on the Talbot County Economic Development Commission since 2012. Through these roles, he is most widely recognized for supporting the establishment of living shorelines at the Oxford Park and the Oxford-Bellevue Ferry Dock, as well as the Oxford Conservation Park on Oxford Road. Additionally, Pete was a lifetime member of the Oxford Volunteer Fire Department serving as a firefighter, a Trustee, and as a Parliamentarian.

Pete is survived by his two children, Katherine Wilson Dunbar and Michael Wilson Dunbar, and his two older brothers Jack and Richard Dunbar of FL. He is preceded in death by his wife, K. Nancy Wilson, and his parents Clifford Dunbar and Ruth Ernst.

The family will be hosting a gathering of family and friends in the spring at a date to be named later.

Michael and Kate will be receiving friends, neighbors, and colleagues at the

Oxford house on Saturday, October 26, from 12PM to 5PM.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be sent to the Eastern Shore Land Conservancy or the Oxford Volunteer Fire Department.

Tribute Wall



“ *Pete Michael Dunbar*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Pete Michael Dunbar*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Pete Michael Dunbar*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *I got to know Pete through Pickleball about 2 years ago! After a group of us from Oxford got together and learned the game from our resident Oxford pro, Nick Papson, we met every Monday and Friday morning to play. Pete and I played our first tournament together and it was there I got to know his wry sense of humor and wit, and altho we lost, we sure had fun doing it! Pete, when he could no longer play, would often come to the courts to cheer us on and offer a little coaching on the side. I would often stay after and we would have lovely long chats about the environment, his health and goings on about Oxford. He was an amazingly courageous man with a bright spirit, and I will miss him very much. My deepest sympathies to Kate and Michael of whom he was so proud. My deepest regret is that I was in Italy teaching when I received the news of his passing and I did not get a chance to say goodbye. I look forward to celebrating his life in the Spring.*

Suzie Hurley, Oct. 28th.

Susan Gordon Hurley - October 28, 2019 at 11:21 AM



“ *He will be missed. Mr. Dunbar gave graciously of his time and expertise to the Tred Avon Players. My condolences to his family and friends.*

Kim Wilson - October 25, 2019 at 04:11 PM

BR

“ *I interacted and/or worked with Pete for much of my career, and it was always a sometimes challenging and often very rewarding work experience. Pete had great insight into the environmental issues we were addressing, a great concern for the environment, and an astute understanding of Maryland politics and the political machinations within Maryland DNR. One of the more amusing incidents occurred when the legislature was proposing to steal money from the Environmental Trust Fund that supported the Power Plant program. At Pete's suggestion, I wrote letters to my state representatives and senators decrying this misuse of ETF funds and the potential impact it would have on our business in Howard County, only to then get a call from Pete, who was directed to call off his attack contractors. Pete and I had many discussions about life in general, and I stayed in touch mainly via Facebook. He was a wonderful guy, a good friend, and I will miss his posts and pictures of his home ospreys. My deepest condolences to Kate and Mike, and to the citizens of Oxford to whom he was devoted.*

Bill Richkus, now residing in Saint Petersburg, FL

Bill Richkus - October 24, 2019 at 04:18 PM

JT

“Pete was a great co-worker, a stalwart advocate for the environment and the Eastern Shore lifestyle and culture, but more importantly, Pete was a long-time friend. Hopefully he's found a square-rigged ketch that right now has tight sheets taking him onward through time!

Jim Teitt - October 24, 2019 at 02:50 PM

LH

“We were so sorry to hear of Pete's passing. You all are in our thoughts and prayers.

Eastern Shore Land Conservancy

Lauren Halterman - October 24, 2019 at 02:41 PM

PP

“KATIE AND MICHAEL: YOU ARE IN MY THOUGHTS AT THIS TIME OF SORROW. CALL ME AT PPRP IF I CAN BE OF SERVICE.

PAUL PETZRICK - October 24, 2019 at 11:09 AM