



Stephen Di Pierdomenico

October 21, 1925 - September 4, 2020

Stephen Di Pierdomenico was born on October 21, 1925 to Philip and Julia Di Pierdomenico in Abbateggio, Italy. His father was already an American, having earned citizenship by fighting in WW1, earning a Purple Heart. The family moved to America to escape rising fascism in Italy, settling in Brooklyn, NY.

The attack on Pearl Harbor found him at the Brooklyn High School of Automotive Trades. Immediately, he and others dropped out of school and attempted to join the Armed Services. Having only just turned 16, his father resisted him joining up. But finally, he got in the US Navy and completed the best diesel schools the Navy had. He was talked into joining the Amphibious Forces and was assigned as Chief Petty Officer of an LCT (Landing Craft Tank). Upon the invasion of the Philippines, he was assigned to a unit dedicated to "behind the lines" destruction of Japanese radio bases. They also participated in helping the Philippine Guerrilla Units on the Island of Mindanao.

After the war was over, Steve remained in the Philippines and worked with the Ambassador to the Philippines, Paul V. McNutt. He also worked off and on for the OSS/CIG (forerunners of the CIA) for the next ten years. He learned to fly and flew with Pacific Airways. During this time, he also flew for Proctor and Gamble around the Philippines. Some of his piloting duties included transporting the president of P & G, Jack Lawrence, and the CEO of P & G,

Neil McElroy, who later became Secretary of Defense under President Dwight Eisenhower.

Despite being offered many opportunities both in the Philippines and with P & G in the states, he was determined to pursue his dream of building and operating his own sawmill in the mountains of Oregon and Northern California. He took part in the authorized clear cutting of forests as part of the project that created Trinity Lake in the Trinity Alps of Northern California. Due to a downturn in the logging industry, he returned to what he had been trained to do.

Steve was hired by TransAmerica Corporation to work in their diesel division installing power plants. This took him all over the world. He was given Q security clearance which enabled him to install a 100 KW generator in Area 51 during the Cold War. The Q clearance allowed him access to nuclear generators. His other main Q clearance job was to sit at the controls of the emergency power plant he installed at Cape Kennedy for the first Moon shot in 1969.

It was at this time he realized he was doing too much traveling. His friends at DeKalb Research talked him into moving to Joplin, MO to build a feed mill and conduct research on uses for chicken waste. People from all over the world came to see the manure-drying operation and even shipped truckloads of it to Gates Specialty Chemical Corp. in Denver, CO.

Steve became involved in the poultry industry, specifically egg production. He found great enjoyment with his cattle and bush hogging. He enjoyed hunting and fishing, doing both into his nineties. He loved visiting with friends and family and told the best stories. He was also very involved with both local and national Amphibious Veterans groups, traveling all over the country and meeting many special new friends.

He was passionate about helping people, especially kids. He started a foundation named after his mother in order to assist churches, veteran's organizations, and other worthy causes.

Steve and Sally donated a mammography machine to Salem Hospital in honor of Sally's win over breast cancer. He wanted to make sure all the women in this area had access to early detection.

Stephen married Sally Kober in Billings, MT on October 1, 1960. They had one daughter, Julia.

Stephen is survived by his loving wife, Sally Di Pierdomenico of the home; daughter Julia Moser and husband Hershel of Salem, MO; one sister, Olga Di Pierdomenico of Palm Bay, FL; as well as several nieces and nephews, beloved godsons, and extended family and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, beloved stepmother Maria, older sister Carmela Valot, and younger brother, Julio Di Pierdomenico.

Graveside Services with Military Honors for Stephen Di Pierdomenico were held Tuesday, September 8, 2020 at the New Hope Cemetery Salem, Missouri with Pastor Chris Hendrix officiating. Serving as Pallbearers were Hershel Moser, Dee Moser, Will Mahurin, Zachary Moser, Phillip Moser, and Jack Blackwell. Military Honors were provided by the United States Navy and American Legion Post 99. Arrangements were under the direction of Wilson Mortuary of Salem, Missouri.

In lieu of flowers, Memorial Contributions may be made in memory of Stephen

Di Pierdomenico to the New Hope Cemetery and may be left at Wilson Mortuary.

Online condolences maybe made at www.wilsonmortuary.com

Cemetery Details

New Hope Cemetery

Previous Events

Graveside Service

SEP 8. 3:00 PM.

New Hope Cemetery

Tribute Wall

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“ Dear Sally, Julia and family,

Our families go back so many, many, years. Looking at all these pictures brought backs many memories. Who could have imagined that two neighbors going back almost 70 years would be come so close that we consider ourselves family. So many good times were spent together. I remember looking up to Steve and JoJo with such admiration. They were both great men and I am so lucky to have been able to call them my "brothers." May Steve rest in peace and be reunited with all our loved ones. The world will be a little less of a wonderful place with his loss. With much love, Elise and Marc Feiner



Elise Feiner - September 11, 2020 at 09:51 PM

JA

I was born into a loving family, one older brother, one younger sister. I had the good fortune to have had four additional siblings, my older "sisters" Carmela and Olga (my babysitter), and my "brothers" Steve and Joe my siblings from other mothers (Giulia, Carmela, Steve and Joe's mother, and Maria, Olga's mother) members of the Phil and Maria Di Pierdomenico family who lived next door to us in Brooklyn, a friendship that has endured close to 80 years; so much so that we consider ourselves family more than friends.

East New York, Brooklyn was one tough neighborhood and Steve and Joe were two of the toughest men I ever knew. More importantly, they were decent, loving, and the most loyal men I ever knew. I saw Joe the most as he lived in New York, I rarely saw sister Carmela, and always missed seeing Steve who had moved to Missouri but loved when he, Sally and Julie would come to visit and of course the families would reminisce about the good old days when a common wall between our two-family row houses separated us, days when if my mother or their mother would need a cup of sugar, etc. the communication was a knock on the wall responded to by another knock. Off I would go happily, knowing that along with the cup of sugar there would be those delicious "pizzelle" that Maria would give me with her beautiful, loving smile. Rest in peace, Steve my dear oldest "brother", and thank you for being a part of my life. My love and condolences to Sally, Julie and Herschel and the rest of my DiPierdomenico family.

Joseph Avella - September 13, 2020 at 12:05 PM

PS

There isn't much I can add to the fondest of memories my brother and sister have already stated other than to send deepest condolences to Sally, Julia and family and friends on this most tragic loss. Memories sustain us when actuality deserts us. RIP Steve!

Philip J Avella Sr - September 27, 2020 at 11:36 AM



“ 59 files added to the album LifeTributes



Wilson Mortuary - September 08, 2020 at 10:34 AM