

Leonidas P. Doumas

February 25, 1942 - January 15, 2021

Leonidas Paraskevas Doumas, 78, of Ocean, New Jersey, passed away on January 15, 2021, after a short illness. Born in Thessaloniki, Greece on February 25, 1942, Leo immigrated to the United States with his family in 1952. Leo spent his youth working in his father's deli in Jersey City, playing high school football, and singing in the church and school choirs. Leo graduated from Rutgers University and Seton Hall Law, eventually founding his own law firm in Bayonne. After practicing law for more than forty years and coaching multiple youth sports teams, Leo finally retired in order to spend more time with his grandchildren, rooting (often loudly) for their sports teams, particularly their hockey teams, and cheering on (again, often loudly) the Mets, Giants and Devils.

Leo was an outgoing and gregarious member of his American and Greek communities, known for his stories, singing and jokes, some of which were even funny. Leo was devoted to his family, particularly his wife of 51 years, Carol, and children Alexandra and Christopher. Leo also was a devoted member of the Greek Orthodox Church, attending St. George Greek Orthodox Church in Ocean and Asbury Park, and he was both a formal advisor and informal mentor to the youth of the church. Leo also was a member of the Order of Ahepa, a member of the Freemasons, and was appointed an archon at Evangelismos Greek Orthodox Church in Jersey City.

Leo is survived by his beloved wife, Carol; daughter Alexandra; son Christopher; his grandchildren, to whom he was devoted: Nikolas, Jacen,

Matthias, Xander, and Calista; and his siblings and large extended family. Due to the pandemic, the family has requested a private funeral ceremony. In lieu of flowers, any memorial donations may be made to the Shriners Hospitals for Children or the St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 1033 West Park Avenue, Ocean, NJ. The family would welcome any messages, stories, pictures, or videos of Leo that you wish to download to this website and/or to rememberingleonidas@gmail.com. The family hopes that we will be able to gather together in better times to have a proper celebration of Leo's life.

Tribute Wall

DS

“ Carol and family, John and I were Very sad to hear about Leo. We have great memories shared with you both at Nancy and Tommy's house. Whether it was singing Karaoke, playing cards or just talking about our children we enjoyed our times together. Like these many memories etched in our hearts and minds so too will be our memories of Leo. We Will miss Leo always.

Diane and John Sindle

Diane and John Sindle - January 20, 2021 at 10:34 AM

“ Dear Aunt Carol, Alexandra, Christopher and the Doumas grandchildren,

Our hearts break over your loss. Your husband/dad/grandfather was a legend. There was no one who met Uncle Leo and didn't remember him. He had a way of commanding the room such that there was no missing Uncle Leo when he was around. His strong, powerful voice filled whatever space he occupied, whether singing the hymns in church from his pew, telling a story or a joke at Thanksgiving, taking the St. George Goyans Christmas caroling, or cheering on his kids/grandkids playing sports.

What I loved about Uncle Leo is that he lived his life guided by some very simple principles: serve God, provide for the family, give back to the community. As a member of his extended family, I will forever be grateful for how he provided his unconditional love and support to me during important times of my life like the loss of my grandparents, the tragic and untimely death of a fellow Goyan, getting into law school, studying for (and passing) the bar exam, my wedding, and the baptism of my children, to name a few.

The other thing I will fondly remember about Uncle Leo was his love of winning tavli. The man had no shame in beating anyone and everyone who was brave (or dumb) enough to take him on. Just last Christmas, Uncle Leo, Aunt Carol and Alexandra came to visit my family in PA. After a nice lunch and opening a few belated Christmas gifts, Ana (age 11 at the time, and who had learned how to play tavli from her mom) breaks out the board and challenges Uncle Leo to “best out of 3.” Game on! Uncle Leo, after pointing out all of Ana's errors and commenting that whomever taught her how to play didn't teach her right, proceeded to unapologetically kick her butt. I love that my daughter learned how to play tavli from Uncle Leo, and that she will have that memory of him to carry with her through life.

May God bless you all with continued good health; may the

memories of your husband/dad/grandfather provide you with comfort over the weeks, months and years ahead; and may his memory be eternal.

With great love and sympathy,

Laura, Mark, Anastasia & Sophia



Laura Merianos - January 19, 2021 at 12:07 AM

BT

“ *I shared this with Chris earlier today but I remember so clearly Mr Dumas being on the sidelines when we were young and all the way through high school of our soccer and baseball games. I remember too hearing his voice on the sidelines stating an occasional opinion to a ref or umpire and how he was always such a nice guy to Chris’ friends. It was really fantastic to reconnect with him years later, coaching travel baseball to his grandson Jacen, and seeing him on the sidelines as the same guy he was years earlier. Such a nice, genuine man. I know my parents enjoyed catching up with him at those same games. He was such a great presence and personality.*

Bob Tamashunas - January 18, 2021 at 04:43 PM

DM

“ Dear Aunt Carol, Chris, and Alexandra,
I have so many fond memories of my Uncle Leo. The one that others may not know is that I was in a minor traffic accident when I was in high school, and I was issued a traffic citation. Uncle Leo insisted on defending me in court, where he got the case dismissed, because the ticket was for failure to yield, but the intersection in question had no stop or yield sign. But it never made sense to him that I was written the ticket in the first place, so as we were leaving the courthouse, he watched the police officer who wrote the ticket very closely, and he saw him talking to the woman with whom I got into the accident, and he realized that they were friends. So then he was furious, and he marched back into the courthouse, and yelled at the prosecutor for running a corrupt courthouse, and then the prosecutor yelled at the police officer, and then the police officer followed us outside of the courthouse and started yelling at Uncle Leo, who then yelled back at him. Needless to say, we both tried to avoid driving through that township for a while after that. Then he took me to lunch. Not only wouldn't he let my parents pay him for defending me in court, he wouldn't even let me pay for lunch. Besides being an excellent lawyer, he was just a great man. He believed in doing the right thing, always, and for no other reason than it was the right thing to do. And that is how I will remember him.

Love,
Demetri

Demetri Merianos - January 18, 2021 at 04:29 PM

AS

“ Dear Carol, Alex and Chris,
Our deepest sympathies to you at this time of great sorrow.

I will always be grateful to Leo for taking a chance by hiring me with no legal experience and having been out of the work place for many years. He patiently taught me the ropes and we worked well together for more than 13 years.

It was a pleasure working with him all those years, so many professional memories. The way he dictated into his recorder (sometimes while driving), even dictating the punctuation; keeping his cell phone in his briefcase, rarely if ever turning it on (drove me crazy); the way he was so organized (which I loved), cross referencing files on index cards so that we would be able to find a file in a moment's notice; I enjoyed listening to him speak with his clients in Greek, never knowing what he was saying but sometimes getting the gist of the conversation just from his tone of voice.

But my fondest memories of Leo are personal, his warm smile, beautiful singing voice, professionalism, integrity, faith, but mostly his devotion to family. We would often talk about our family lives and how fortunate we both were. When my elderly parents were hospitalized or needed me for medical appointments or other family emergencies arose, he was always so understanding and would say "family comes first". He became a close friend, a friendship I will treasure!

Leo will be missed and we will continue to keep him and your family in our thoughts and prayers.

*Sincerely,
Alberta & Nick*

Alberta Signoretta - January 18, 2021 at 03:57 PM

LL

“ Dear Carol and family,
I am going to miss my friend and law school classmate. We spent many hours in the Seton Hall Law School library together discussing our class assignments. We often argued about who was smarter and the better student (although I would never admit it or give him the satisfaction, I think we both knew he always won that friendly competition). The New Jersey bar has lost one of our best. Not only a fine lawyer but , more importantly, a fine human being, who was so proud of Alexandra and Christopher.
I am so glad , over the last 10 years, to have been able to keep in touch and share legal experiences.
RIP my friend.
Judge Lou Locascio, Ret.

Louis Locascio - January 18, 2021 at 02:04 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Leonidas P. Dumas.



January 18, 2021 at 10:55 AM

BE

“ So wonderful to have known you Leo. I always enjoyed our time together at Dinner and with your family events. My condolences to you Carol Christopher and Alexandra. Bob Endres

Bob Endres - January 18, 2021 at 10:10 AM

KL

“ Thank you Mr. Doumas for leadership in GOYA and your wisdom and kindness. May your memory be eternal.



Kosta Linardakis - January 17, 2021 at 10:14 PM

BH

“ Bongarzone Funeral Home lit a candle in memory of Leonidas P. Doumas



Bongarzone Funeral Home - January 17, 2021 at 07:14 PM

“ Uncle Leo was always there for us- in good times and in the hard times. I will never forget how he drove to Boston when my dad's mom passed away to attend the wake and funeral. It was a difficult time for the family and when I saw Uncle Leo there, I was so comforted. I knew everything was going to be OK. I was 12 years old at the time and never forgot that.

Uncle Leo was the GOYA advisor at St George and I saw first hand his and Aunt Carol's loving influence on the church youth. I feel so blessed and proud that they were ours- my aunt and uncle. I have many happy memories Christmas caroling, shaving cream fights at Olympics and at those never ending GOYA meetings.

Uncle Leo made sure Yiayia was able to come to my wedding in Baltimore. It meant a lot to me she was able to be there. Uncle Leo made it happen.

When my dad was in the ICU with pneumonia one Christmas several years back, Uncle Leo and Uncle Mike came to the hospital to see us. They were quick with the jokes (usually very bad ones!) to cheer me up and keep things light and in perspective.

Uncle Leo would always ask how you are and want the real answer, not the one word 'fine', 'ok'. This led to meaningful and loving conversations which I cherish even as I grew up and moved away and when our in person visits were less frequent.

OK now for the funny stuff... At family gatherings, Uncle Leo would often randomly break out in song as if he were performing on Broadway. As a kid I never knew what to make of it. As an adult it made me laugh out loud.

He would often try to goad me into discussions about politics. I loved him too much (and enjoyed politics too little) to engage in those conversations. My lack of response usually made him laugh.

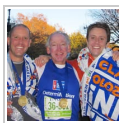
At Uncle Mike's wedding in Chicago a few years ago, Ali and I were lucky enough to sit at the same table as Aunt Carol and Uncle Leo. Uncle Leo started getting into some crazy Greek politics that I did not understand with another guest at the table. I whispered to Aunt Carol, does he know this guy? Aunt Carol said no. The debate was so intense I was sure Uncle Leo knew this guy- clearly he could not have just met him. Ali and I tried to change the subject multiple times unsuccessfully. Uncle Leo was having too much fun. Not really sure about the other guy.

I cannot think of any important moments in my life where Uncle Leo was absent. He was always there, a loving and comforting force. I am so grateful. May his memory be eternal.

*All my love,
Helen xoxo*



Helen Merianos - January 17, 2021 at 04:43 PM



My condolences to Carol, Chris, Alexandria and extended family on your loss of a wonderful and kind person. I've always admired Leo as a great family man and as one who made the world a better place. I recently came across a video from 13 years ago where Leo was instructing our toddler grandchildren to be kind and gentle to each other. I also recall Leo as an outstanding volunteer soccer referee over 35 years ago and as a supportive spectator at youth basketball and high school baseball games. His great legacy will live on forever, especially in his children and grandchildren. May he Rest In Peace.

Ivan Brown - January 20, 2021 at 06:26 AM