



Peter W. Facas

July 13, 1943 - October 23, 2019

Peter William Facas, 76, of Falls Church, Virginia, died peacefully on October 23rd, 2019.

A native of Paterson and Clifton, New Jersey, Peter was born on July 13, 1943 to William and Yolanda Facas (nee DeMarzo). He graduated from Pope Pius XII High School in Passaic, New Jersey in 1961, where he excelled in math and science. Inspired by the space race, Peter went on to receive a B.A. in Physics and a Master in Mechanical Engineering both from The Catholic University of America.

Peter was a proud public servant who spent his entire career as a physicist for the Department of the Navy – working at the Naval Air Systems Command and the Office of Special Projects – where he led national security projects. He also served as a Navy liaison and technical advisor to the Kuwaiti armed forces and received a commendation from that nation for his contributions.

After 39 years of dedicated public service, Peter retired from the federal government in 2005.

After his retirement, one could find Peter every Friday and Saturday at the Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum where he was a docent for seven years. For his dedication, he received the President's Volunteer Service

Award in 2016.

Peter will always be remembered for his roaring laugh, his keen intellect, his unending generosity, and one helluva homemade Thanksgiving lasagna. He loved a good library book, building furniture in his woodwork shop, cracking a corny joke, and self-designating himself as chief photographer at family gatherings. Most of all, Peter loved his family deeply.

He is preceded in death by his parents, and his first wife, Carol Ann Nelson.

Peter is survived by his wife of 36 years, Maxanne Witkin of Falls Church, Virginia; sons Matthew Facas (Rebecca) of Highlandville, Missouri, Norman Facas (Yuchen Zang) of Seattle, Washington, and Sam Facas of Oakland, California; grandchildren Jacob Facas of Falls Church, Virginia, and Monty, Hank and Charlotte Facas, of Highlandville, Missouri. He is also survived by his brother Alexis Facas of Hamburg, New Jersey; sister and brother-in-law, Barbara and Bill Romeo, of Waretown, New Jersey; and many much-loved nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Donations can be made to the National Air and Space Museum. A celebration of Peter's life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

PW

“ On May 17th, in 2017 my family visited the Air & Space Museum and Mr. Facas came forward and started talking with great enthusiasm about all the wonderful artifacts. His friendly demeanor made our visit special so I wanted to share the memory of our brief encounter.



Patrick Y Wong - April 19 at 09:54 PM

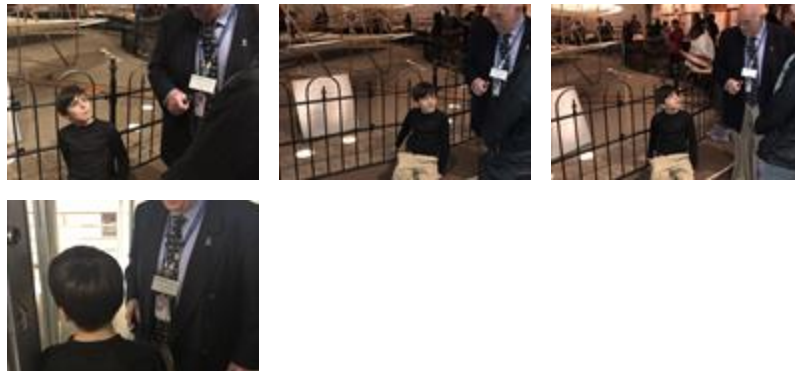


“ Peter W. Facas

October 27, 2022 at 09:45 PM

NK

“ Uncle Peter was a great man. I always looked up to him and how smart he was. We will love and miss him forever. God rest his beautiful soul in peace! ❤️



Natalie Khawam - November 02, 2019 at 04:50 PM

RW

“ Peter was a wonderful man with a keen wit, always very good to the people around him. We will miss him greatly. - Richard Weld (National Air and Space Museum)

RW - October 29, 2019 at 10:14 AM



“ Although we were 9 months apart and didn't look at all alike our parents for some reason called us twins. We were a close family and we all grew up together. He sometimes picked me up from work and I white knuckled it all the way home. He will be greatly missed. God Bless his wife Maxi and his children and grandchildren, my cousins Barbara and Allie and their families. May they be comforted.

Joanne Greenberg - October 28, 2019 at 03:29 PM