

James Peeler "Pete" Kennedy, III

July 7, 1941 - May 19, 2026

James Peeler "Pete" Kennedy III, beloved husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, passed away peacefully on May 19, 2026, at the age of 84. Born on July 7, 1941, in Alpine, Texas, Pete lived a life defined by devoted service, deep family bonds, and an unshakable love for the things that brought him joy.

Pete attended Southern Methodist University and proudly served his country in the United States Navy from October 25, 1964, to April 11, 1970, flying troops to Vietnam in support of the Civil Reserve Air Fleet (CRAF). He began working for American Airlines in 1964 and ultimately flew routes across the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans during a lengthy career that ended with his retirement from American Airlines on July 6, 2001 as American's most "Senior Pilot #1", a distinction he wore with quiet pride, a testament to decades of skill, dedication, and professionalism. Pete's final flight was as Captain of a Boeing 777 from London to Dallas — and he rode off into the sunset from the DFW terminal on his horse!

On the ground, Pete's world revolved around three great loves. First and foremost was his family, whom he cherished above all else. He was also devoted to his dogs, and it was abundantly clear that the feeling was entirely mutual. And then there were the sporting clays — Pete lived for any chance to get outside with his shooting buddies and break clays, a passion born of his deep respect for the outdoors and his proud, lifelong advocacy for the Second Amendment. He was a strong conservative who stood firmly by his

convictions.

Pete is preceded in death by his parents, James Peeler Kennedy Jr. and Margery Kennedy (née Speer), and his brother, Charles Christopher Kennedy. He is survived by his beloved wife, Sylvia, who was faithfully by his side. He is also survived by his children, Tatijana Latimer, Alexandra Corwin (Timothy), Pete Kennedy IV (Ellie), and Cathy Wien (Kurt); eight grandchildren, Alexandra Griffiths (Tyler), Abigail Lemeshev, Abigail Cozette (Conrad), Rebekah Lemeshev, Madeline Kennedy, Beatrice Kennedy, Ryan Corwin, and Calvin Kennedy; as well as three great-grandchildren.

A Celebration of Life with Military Honors will be held on Saturday, June 6, 2026, at 2 PM at Mission Park Funeral Chapel Dominion, 20900 I-10, San Antonio, Texas. Family and friends are warmly invited to gather and honor a man who flew higher than most and loved deeper than all.

Fair winds and clear skies, Pete. You've earned your final approach.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

JUN 6. 2:00 PM (CT)

Mission Park Funeral Chapels and Cemetery Dominion

20900 IH 10 W

San Antonio, TX 78257

(210) 698-5252

<https://www.missionparks.com/>

Tribute Wall



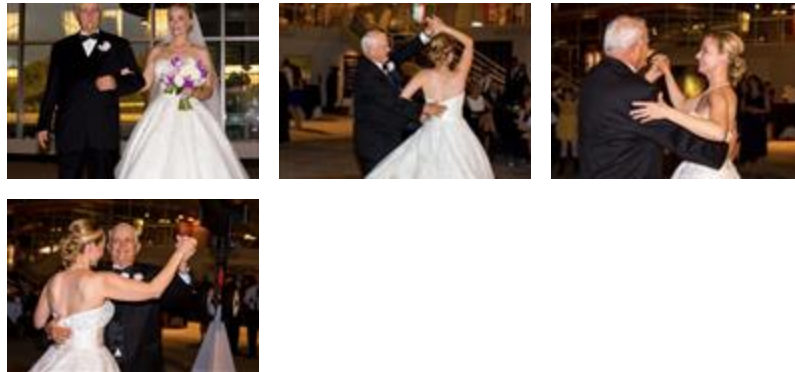
“ *Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemeteries created a Tribute Video in memory of James Peeler "Pete" Kennedy, III*



Mission Park Funeral Chapels & Cemetery - June 07 at 05:37 PM

CW

“ *4 files added to the tribute wall*



Cathy Wien - June 05 at 07:31 PM

RE

“ *I'm sorry that I won't be able to attend the memorial service. Thinking of everyone during this difficult time and sending my love. May happy memories bring comfort in the days ahead. Rest in peace, Grandpa.*

Rebekah - June 05 at 03:37 PM



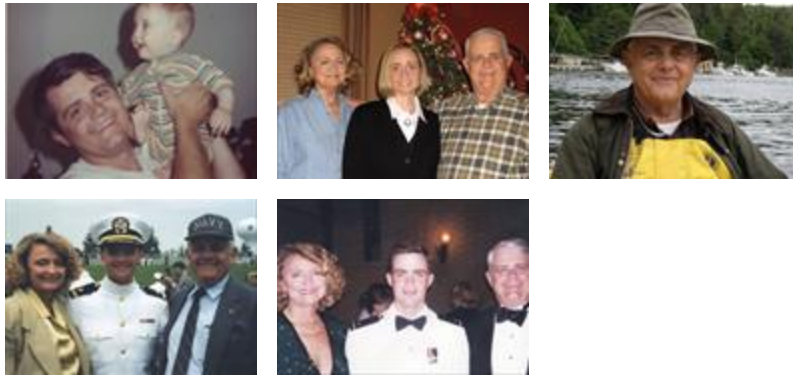
“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of James Peeler "Pete" Kennedy, III.*



June 05 at 05:39 AM



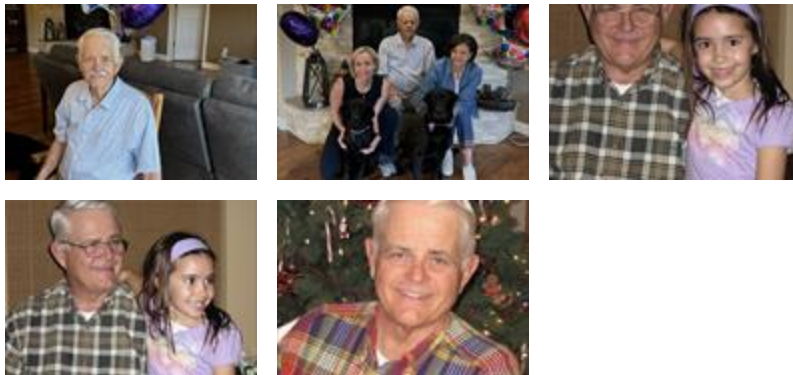
“ *6 files added to the tribute wall*



Cathy Wien - June 03 at 06:12 PM



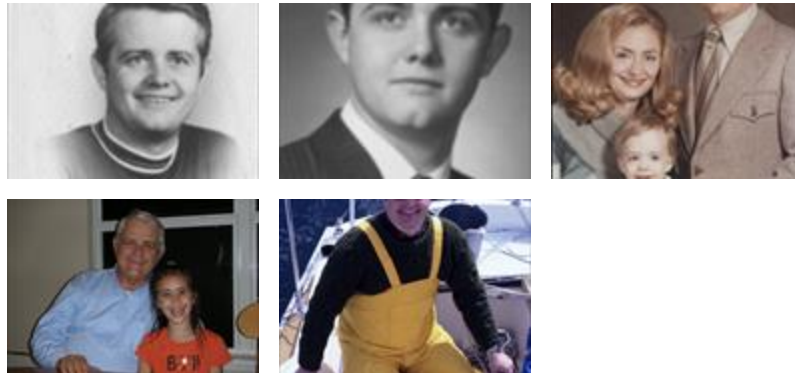
“ *11 files added to the tribute wall*



Cathy Wien - June 03 at 05:50 PM

CW

“ 13 files added to the tribute wall



Cathy Wien - June 03 at 05:44 PM

WR

“ *Pete was a special, one-of-a-kind guy. My life is much richer for having known him for only 5 years. He was a tough competitor, and loyal friend and mentor. He fought his illness with amazing courage. If anyone could have won that battle it would have been Pete. Pete, thank you so much for your warm comradery and all the things you taught me.*

To Silvia and all of Pete's family, you have our most sincere condolences. We are so very sorry for your loss. Please know that Pete had many friends and associates, and each held him in the highest esteem.

*We miss you, Pete.
Warren and Kim Rawls*

Warren Rawls - June 03 at 05:24 PM

AC

Thank you for the kind words, Warren and Kim. I'm sure he enjoyed knowing you for the last five years.

Alexandra Corwin - June 04 at 12:36 AM

AM

My Friend - Pete Kennedy

Pete, I'm writing to let you, and by extension your family, know how grateful I am to have known you for these 8+ years I have lived in San Antonio. I can't recall anyone I have known who exhibited the courtesy, generosity, and simple class that you did as my friend. Like many who have come to pay their respects to Sylvia and your entire family, I was truly blessed to have you, for a time anyway, in my life.

We spent many hours together traveling to and from clay shooting events, shooting all over the greater San Antonio area. I would have enjoyed it whether or not you decided to buy a clays cart. If I was riding in a vehicle with you, I had to always keep in mind which ear you could hear out of, so I could sit on your good side. I'll always remember one day shooting in Kerrville, you reminded everyone in our squad that if you started to fall - grab your gun first! Priorities are important.

You shared cookbooks and recipes with me. You loaned me books you thought I'd enjoy. You bought me ground coffee because you knew I was a coffee lover. You seemed unable to not find some sort of Christmas present to get for all of your regular shooting buddies.

I miss you dearly my friend. Near the end, at your home shortly before you entered the nursing and care facility, I spoke to you about your Savior because I want to see you again with Him when my time comes to an end. Jesus once said, the greatest achievement a man can attain to is to love your neighbor as yourself. My friend, from my perspective, you have done this admirably. God bless you and your entire family.

Andy Madonio

Andy Madonio - June 04 at 01:47 PM

PG

My sincerest sympathies to Sylvia and all of Pete's family. It is hard to find the words to properly convey what Pete meant to all of his friends in the Thursday Shooting Group.

Pete was a true friend, always thinking of others and preferring to see the good in anyone, or any situation. He rarely told you what needed to be done, he simply led by example.

If Pete was your friend, your life was truly better for it, and I was fortunate enough to have known Pete for the last 12 years. The memories of all the times we shot together, I will cherish forever.

Shoot well Pete, you will be missed!

Patrick & Cheryl Grothues

Patrick Grothues - June 04 at 04:58 PM