



Nicholas James Bartis D.D.S.

April 18, 1929 - September 24, 2020

Nick Bartis, beloved father, Papou, and friend passed away at his home on September 24th. His mind was sharp and his heart full of love to the very end. After 91 years though, his body succumbed to “every affliction known to man” and could no longer sustain his inquisitive mind. His final days were spent laughing and telling the stories of a life well-lived. During this difficult but joyful time, he expressed his deep love for his family, friends, and home. Due to the pandemic we are unable to gather safely and have a Big Fat Greek Celebration of Life. Hopefully we can do that soon, but for now we offer this obituary in tribute to him and to thank all the dear friends and caregivers who provided love, care, and companionship over the many years.

Nick was born on April 18, 1929 in Elmira, NY. He was the youngest son of James Nicholas Bartis and Armida Corogenis Bartis, immigrants from Mytilene, Greece. The Greek culture of family, hospitality, love, hard work, and great food infused every facet of his life. Nick is preceded in death by his parents, his wife Willowdean, as well as his siblings, Steve, Tom and Betty.

The love and support of Nick’s parents and siblings propelled Nick to achieve many wonderful things in his life. His family moved to Greensboro when he was twelve, and it was his happy home for the better part of 79 years. He graduated from Greensboro Senior High in 1947 and enrolled in UNC Chapel Hill. In 1951, while working and attending school, Nick was drafted and joined the Army to fight in the Korean War. He made the rank of 1st Lieutenant and received The Combat Infantry Badge. A recording of his experience in the war, conducted by his nephew, Peter Bartis, is part of the Library of Congress Veteran’s History Project and can be found at this link <https://memory.loc.gov/diglib/vhp/story/loc.natlib.afc2001001.08961/>

You can also search for a similar recount of WWII conducted with Nick’s brother-in-law, Jack Lindbergh Land.

After serving in Korea, Nick returned to UNC (GO HEELS!) where he received a BA in Chemistry and a Master’s in Public Health. While in Chapel Hill he saw a beautiful nursing st

udent. With the help of a friend (Ellie Poulos), he concocted a ruse to meet her. (She never actually believed a graduate student with a chemistry degree would need to borrow a nursing book.) Nick married Willowdean Land in 1957. The newlyweds moved to Philadelphia where Nick attended Dental School and Willowdean worked as a public health nurse. He received his Doctor of Dentistry from the University of Pennsylvania, where he also served as President of the Psi Omega Dental Fraternity.

The couple returned to Greensboro, and Nick opened his dental practice in Greensboro in 1961. His laid-back office was like Floyd's Barber shop -- where patients were friends and the staff were family. He was a member of the American Dental Society, served as President of the Guilford County Dental Society, and was a member of Dental Advisory Committee of the Guilford County Health Department which started the GTCC Dental Hygiene program. He loved being a dentist and, even more, the people it brought into his life.

He was a member of the Jaycees, Crackpots, and Old Timers Clubs, and served on the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He was a proud member of the Dormition of the Theotokos Church where he served as President of the Parish Council, Chairman of the Building Committee, and founding member of the Greensboro Greek Festival alongside his long-time friend, Bill Anton. For many years Papou ran the Loukoumadis (Greek doughnut) tent and ate as many as he sold.

Nick was a man of many talents, and the house was always full of joyful noise. He garden ed, fished, golfed, painted, wood-worked, and repaired all kinds of machines. He loved art, music, games, and food. He never moved fast, but he never stopped moving. For years he repaired player pianos, then pinball machines, lawn mowers and made jewelry. Discarded items were unpolished diamonds, and he could make something out of them. For years the trees in his yard displayed giant birds and insects made from old lamps and grill parts he picked up from the side of the road. If you needed a giant dragonfly with Coke bottles for eyes and tennis racket wings...he was your guy. Yard sales were treasure hunts and Greensboro full of bounty.

In 2016, Nick lost Willowdean after 59 years. He could no longer physically manage the garden or any of the more taxing hobbies, but he persisted on. His last few years were spent at home teaching caregivers to cook Greek food, making earrings, working the crossword, playing (and sometimes cheating at) Rummikub, looking at "The Facemail," and complaining about the oversized chickens at Harris Teeter.

Nick is survived by his adoring children Stephanie Bartis (Kathy Clark), Jim Bartis (Patti), and Stacy Bartis Lane, as well as four cherished grandchildren, Adriana Lane, Izabela Lan

e, Eleanor Bartis, and Nicholas Bartis

There will be a private family service Sunday, Sept. 27, 2020 followed by burial at Forest Lawn Cemetery at 3:15PM. All are welcome to attend the burial service, but please observe social distancing. In lieu of flowers, please send contributions to the Dormition of the Theotokos Greek Orthodox Church Bell Tower Fund.

We would also love to receive notes with funny memories and stories about our Dad. You may do this online at <http://www.forbisanddick.com>, or you may send notes to Stephanie Bartis, 400 McAdoo Ave., Greensboro, NC 27406. Forbis and Dick North Elm Street Funeral Home is serving the Bartis Family.

Cemetery

Events

Forest Lawn Cemetery
3901 Forest Lawn Drive
Greensboro, NC, 27455

SEP
27

Graveside Service

03:15PM

Forest Lawn Cemetery
3901 Forest Lawn Drive, Greensboro, NC, US, 27455

Comments



“ I loved this man and also his brother, Steve, who, I think, brought the first pizzas to Greensboro at his airport restaurant. Most of us had never heard the word, "pizza." I was a regular customer. This was in the 1950s.

Margaret Underwood - October 04, 2020 at 03:14 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Shelli Craig - October 01, 2020 at 08:52 PM



“ The Bartis family here in Mebane send our love and blessings, as we miss Dr. Nick, but know he is free from suffering and alongside his Heavenly family. He was legendary and the centerpiece of the Bartis' here in North Carolina. Many wonderful memories of his love of life, his amazing Easter family cookouts, and his playful nature. His amazing stories of the family's immigration to the US, and his own story were always a joy to hear. He is dearly missed by all!
Love,
Yonnie

Yonnie Butler - October 01, 2020 at 09:42 AM



“ Bartis Family, I am so very sorry for your loss. I work for Jim and being in outside sales we've had many a long car rides to clients, meals and events where Jim lovingly shared stories and memories of his Dad. He was undoubtedly and incredible man. My heart breaks for you all but I pray that you can find peace and comfort in time.

Heather Bellucci - September 30, 2020 at 09:44 AM



“ Stephanie, I just learned of your father passing. What a beautiful tribute to him. May his memory be eternal.

Penny Kappas Chandler - September 28, 2020 at 08:59 AM



“ Nick was such a kind man and I always loved seeing him on his riding lawnmower. We were very lucky to be his neighbor for over a decade. Sending prayers to your family during this difficult time. The Child's family

Shannon Childs - September 27, 2020 at 07:53 PM



“ I never had the honor to meet him, but I know he produced an awesome daughter in Stephanie. love and hugs

Diane Vasarkovy - September 26, 2020 at 08:32 PM



“ One of my favorite memories of Uncle Nick is the player piano. As a child, we would visit Uncle Nick and Aunt Flit in Greensboro and be fascinated with that piano! I also have great memories of the Greek food. But especially I will remember his laugh and warm bear hug when we came in the door! Love to each of you as you grieve the loss of your father and grandfather. Jeanette

Jeanette - September 26, 2020 at 03:30 PM



“ Each time I joined in the Greek Easter celebration, Nick was always welcoming and asked me many questions. The next time I saw him, he usually remembered the answer. He was so proud of his family, his roasting lamb over the outside fire, and his homemade bread. I loved his creative yard art and we talked yard sale treasures. His smile was never so apparent as times I brought my therapy dog, Olive, to the hospital when Nick was receiving care. Somehow, we often ran into each other at the Harris Teeter. When I return to grocery shopping, I know I will turn onto an isle and expect to find him there. Condolences to Stephanie and family as you grieve the loss of his big and loving presence.

Jan Donahue

Janet A Donahue - September 26, 2020 at 02:17 PM



“ I am so sorry to hear about your family's loss. I read your beautiful tribute to Nick in this morning's paper. He was a remarkable man. He was a neighbor and I did notice his bountiful garden on the front corner of his yard. He found the sun and I was envious of his tomatoes. I also noticed the unique creations in his backyard. They would put a smile on my face. His art spoke loudly of creative mind. I only met him once in person, when I first moved into the neighborhood years ago. He must have noticed I had two young children and decided to welcome us by bringing two small pumpkins he had grown in his garden. Well timed...right before Halloween...and much appreciated. A generous man in heart and spirit. He may not be physically present but his good karma remains alive and well in his family, friends and the community. He has found his peace.

Kitty Keesee

Kitty Keesee - September 26, 2020 at 12:25 PM



“ 17 files added to the album Memories Album



Forbis & Dick Funeral Service - September 26, 2020 at 12:18 PM



“ Sympathy Chocolates was purchased for the family of Nicholas James Bartis D.D.S..



September 25, 2020 at 08:14 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of Nicholas James Bartis D.D.S..



September 25, 2020 at 04:15 PM



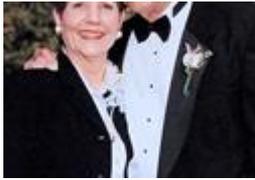
“ 14 files added to the album Memories Album



Forbis & Dick Funeral Service - September 25, 2020 at 03:04 PM



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Forbis & Dick Funeral Service - September 25, 2020 at 01:58 PM



“ Tears endure the night, but joy comes in the morning. Stephanie, Jimmy, Stacy & families you all remain in our hearts & prayers. We All loved Uncle Nick. His kindness, his quick wit & undying love for his family will always be remembered. Rest easy, Uncle Nick.

Karen Land Walker - September 25, 2020 at 04:10 PM