



Chris George Zervos

March 28, 1921 - November 26, 2014

Chris G. Zervos, 93, a prominent custom homebuilder and land developer, passed away November 26th surrounded by his wife of 69 years, Cleo, and his family. Mr. Zervos was born in Toledo, March 28, 1921, the youngest of six children of George and Stratigoula Zervos. He was a 1938 graduate of Waite High School where he lettered in football and wrestling. He was, for a time, a semi-pro boxer and wrestler before enlisting in the Army Air Corps 13 months before Pearl Harbor.

Mr. Zervos graduated Officer Cadet School after serving two years in the Panama Canal Zone and was awarded his pilot's wings. He was promoted to 1st Lieutenant. As a B-24 Liberator bomber pilot, he flew missions from North Africa and Italy, joining the 376th Bomb Group, 515 Bomb Squadron, the oldest air wing in the European theatre of World War II. After successful missions, his plane was severely damaged over the Ploesti, Romania oil fields. Forced to abandon his plane, he and his crew became prisoners of war in Bulgaria on August 10, 1944. Upon his release, he joined the OSS, the forerunner of the CIA, returned to Bulgaria to assist in war crimes trials against those who had committed atrocities against the POWs. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Air Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with cluster, American Defense Service medal European-African-Middle Eastern Service medal, American Campaign Service medal and the Prisoner of War medal.

Upon his return from Europe, Mr. Zervos married Cleo Porentas, February 11, 1945. He completed his tour of duty stateside. He purchased and operated the Delite Night Club at Central & Detroit Ave with brother-in-law George Stratos. In 1956, he joined Stone & Swartzbaugh, a home improvement and remodeling company. In 1957, he formed Mid-City Builders a general contracting company. In 1972, he was joined in business by his son, Chris. Together they established Chris Zervos Builders, Inc. a home building company specializing in up-scale homes. Expanding into land development, they developed Christopher Woods and Hunter's Green. Mr. Zervos developed Timber Ridge Estates, the site of the 1993 Parade of Homes, before his retirement in 1996.

Mr. Zervos was active at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral, serving on its parish council for 35 years and as a 2-term Council President. He sang in its choir. He was chairman of its reverse raffle dinner auction for countless years and was a major parish donor and fund-raiser. He was recognized in 1990 for his outstanding service to the parish. He was likewise named an Outstanding Alumnus of Waite High School and the East Toledo Family Center. He was a member of AHEPA, Barton Smith Lodge of the Masons, Toledo Home Builders Association, Sylvania County Club and American Veterans' groups.

Mr. Zervos is survived by his wife Cleo and children: Barbara (Evan) Batsakes of Ypsilanti, MI; Chris (Persilla) Zervos of Toledo; Dianne (Peter) Sun of Poquoson, VA; and Debbie Gavalas (Robert) Ritchie of Tampa, FL and grandchildren James Batsakes, Stephanie (Jake) Franklin, Christopher (Tricia) Zervos, Jacqueline Zervos, Michael Sun, Stacey Gavalas, Nic (Kendall) Gavalas, John Gavalas, great grandchildren Kathryn and Abigail Zervos and many nieces, nephews, friends and fine neighbors.

The family will receive visitors at Ansberg West Funeral Home from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 30th where Trisagion Prayers will be offered at 7:00

p.m. Funeral services will be at Holy Trinity Cathedral at 11:00 a.m. Monday, Dec. 1st. The family thanks the staff of Ebeid Hospice for its love and care. Memorial tributes may be made to Holy Trinity Cathedral, 740 N. Superior St. Toledo, OH 43604.

Tribute Wall

BR

“ I want to offer my sympathy to the Zervos family. I have known Chris for over thirty years and had business with him and his son for many years. Knowing that Chris grew up in the old neighborhood on the East side where I grew up and hung out at the East Toledo Neighborhood House made our relationship more meaningful. He was a good man and with Cleo another East-Sider formed a great team. I will miss him.

Bill Romp - December 08, 2014 at 09:49 PM

CA

“ To the family, with heartfelt sympathy I send you my love. When I read Mr. Zervos memorial I was moved by the kind of person he was. To live an active and full life shows he wanted to have a purpose in life. I am moved to live life with a purpose too. He must have touched so many lives and shared so much love. I'm sure he will be missed. May you find comfort in God and his promises to end sorrow, pain and death forever. Hold on to the hope of seeing your beloved Chris again, John5:28,29. My hope and prayer is that you find solace and peace from day to day.

Candace - December 07, 2014 at 11:18 AM

GJ

“ Dearest Cleo, we were devastated to hear from Dianne that your beloved husband, Chris, had passed away. We were always so grateful that we had the opportunity to meet you both. What an amazing and wonderful life Chris had. He will be so sorely missed by all who knew and loved him. We hope that the many shared joys and memories of your beloved husband will always keep him close to you and bring you some peace and comfort through the difficult days ahead. Cleo, we so wish there was something we could say or do to make things easier for you now. We just hope it helps a little to know how very much we care about you, and that our thoughts and prayers are with you. We are sending you our deepest, most heartfelt sympathy and love. Gina & Walter JAHN

Gina and Walter JAHN - December 07, 2014 at 02:57 AM

JV

“ I'm so sorry for your loss. Please know that our prayers are with your family and his memory will always be in your heart.

JoAnne (Dahms) Vernon - December 02, 2014 at 12:10 PM

VM

“ My sincerest condolences for the Zervos family. Your Father was a great example of what characteristics a Father and husband should convey and live. My memories of his consideration and kindness for my Mother, and myself when I was young will remain with me always.

Vince Manera - December 01, 2014 at 09:40 AM

GC

“ I'm sorry for the loss of your father. These are sad times. Your father had a great and productive life. It's always good to celebrate all that God has provided and past on to the Zervos family.

Glen Cook - December 01, 2014 at 09:28 AM

DG

“ *Dianne and Debbie,
So sad to hear of your father's passing. Although it's never easy to say good bye, I know you have wonderful memories to comfort you.*

*My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family.
Dar*

Dar Griffith - November 30, 2014 at 08:38 PM

FL

“ *Fondly remembered by another "east side Greek"--my father-in-law, George Lagos. George is 96 and not in the best of health himself, but he was very sad to hear about Chris. May you be blessed with warm and loving memories.*

Freda Baum Lagos - November 30, 2014 at 04:23 PM

EK

“ *Chris was a very special person whom I enjoyed knowing and talking to at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Cathedral. We would discuss AHEPA issues and what the youth of our parish accomplish. I will miss his knowledge, experience, and his special thoughts about our parish.*

Rhanda and I express deepest Sympathy to the Zervos family upon your loss.

May his memory be eternal.

Emmanuel & Rhanda karniotis

Emmanuel Karniotis - November 29, 2014 at 05:21 PM