



Mrs. Dena Castanes Peterson

August 8, 1925 - February 8, 2014

Dena Castanes Peterson, 88, of Asheville, NC passed away February 8, 2014.

Born August 8, 1925 in Charleston, South Carolina, she was daughter of the late Christos and Maria Merkoure Castanes. She was a native of Charleston and Asheville, having graduated with a B.S. in Nursing from Columbia Hospital - School of Nursing and with a Masters Degree in Health Administration from the UNC Chapel Hill where she also did post graduate work in administration.

Dena was married to James Nicholas Peterson, a native of Norfolk, Virginia for 63 years and who preceded her on June 7, 2011. She was a retired registered professional nurse, holding many positions including nursing head nurse, occupational health nurse, supervisor of the Buncombe County Health Department and Western North Carolina State Health Regional Supervisor. She was a former member of NC State Nurses Association, the American Nurses Association and served on the NC Board of Nursing during several terms.

Her survivors include a brother, John C. Castanes of Fayetteville, NC; two sons, Nick J. Peterson and his wife, Dabney Sue Peterson and Chris J. Peterson and his wife, Mari Peterson; two grandchildren, J. Nicholas Peterson

and Allie Maria Peterson, all of Asheville, NC and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

She was a member of the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Churches of Asheville, NC and Charleston, SC. She was also the godmother of the Asheville church. A lifelong Greek Orthodox, she served on many committees as well as community committees, Meals on Wheels, Headstart and Council on Aging.

A Trisagion service will begin at 7 pm, Friday, February 14, 2014 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church. Family will receive friends immediately following the Trisagion service. The funeral will be held at 11:00 am on Saturday February 15, 2014 at Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church with Father Michael Diavatis officiating. Entombment will follow at Lewis Memorial Park.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made in honor of Dena C. Peterson to Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church, P. O. Box 8269, Asheville, NC 28814.

Morris Funeral Home, 304 Merrimon Avenue is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be sent through the website www.morrisfamilyfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Lewis Memorial Park

415 Beaverdam Road
Asheville, NC 28804

Previous Events

Trisagion

FEB 14. 7:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
227 Cumberland Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
<http://www.holytrinityasheville.com/>

Funeral Service

FEB 15. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church
227 Cumberland Ave.
Asheville, NC 28801
<http://www.holytrinityasheville.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Mrs. Dena Castanes Peterson*

October 07, 2023 at 11:15 AM



“ *Sue and Nick, I am so sorry for your loss my heart goes out to you. I have always thought of you. Love, Sherry Stone 757-301-6609*

Sherry Stone - March 14, 2014 at 03:43 PM



“ *My deepest sympathy to the family in your time of sorrow. Phillipians 4:6&7.*

Frances - March 13, 2014 at 07:16 PM



“ *Dear family, I am so sad to hear of the loss of this amazing lady. Dena was my supervisor, (and mentor), at Buncombe Co. Health Dept. when I began working there as a young nurse, some years ago. Her kindness and sense of humor helped me thru many often difficult learning experiences. She was a "mother" to all us young folks at the time; and helped to "raise" me as a public health nurse! Dena loved her family, and her community, and often shared her favorite stories with us. I know her remarkable presence will be greatly missed; she was a special and rare lady. My deepest condolences to your family. Pat Thomas McCall*

Pat McCall - February 20, 2014 at 06:30 PM

TM

“ Dena was employed as a srveyor for licensing our nursing home when we first became acquainted. I always appreciated the she was open and candid with areas that needed attention. She was fair and approachable. I later saw her as a patient at Brooks-Howell when I visited there. Dena enriched my life.

Sorry for the lateness of this message, I've been out of town.

Former Director of Brooks-Howell Home. Thelma McGraw

Thelma McGraw - February 19, 2014 at 07:31 AM

KB

“ Karen Baker lit a candle in memory of Mrs.
Dena Castanes Peterson



Karen Baker - February 14, 2014 at 04:42 PM

RB

“ Nick, Chris and family.....
What a wonderful Mom was Dena. We admired her for so many things and one was "telling it the way it was", and her making us laugh. She was special to so many people, more than you may ever know. But do know this, you have all those great memories of her and your Dad to hold on to forever, and those can never be taken away from you. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Richard & Mickie Bass

Richard Bass - February 14, 2014 at 11:18 AM

BC

“ Dear Chris, Nick and family, I'm sorry to learn of your mothers passing. She was one of my favorite mothers of my high school friends and was always so intelligent. I would always enjoy visiting her the times I'd bump into her through the years. She was a special lady and I know memories of her will make you feel better especially at this sad time. You'll be in my thoughts and prayers, Buzzy

Buzzy Cannady - February 14, 2014 at 10:19 AM

 Lorna
McCafferty

“ Dear John Castanes and family;

My sincere condolences in your time of loss. My thoughts and prayers are with you and your family at this time. Dena sounds like she was a wonderful woman and I wish that I had the opportunity to meet her.

Lorna McCafferty - February 14, 2014 at 09:04 AM

MC

“ Dear Nick, Chris and family, Dena was an inspiration! She was one of very few women (of her generation) with an education beyond high school. I loved her "no nonsense" personality. And she often said things that no one else dared to say, because she could be funny at the same time. I feel so blessed to have known her and Jimmy. May their memories be eternal. Sending love and prayers.
Maria Lamprinakos Collias.

Maria Collias - February 13, 2014 at 06:37 PM

DG

“ Dear Nick, Dabney Sue, and Nicholas ~ Ray and I send our sincerest condolences. We feel badly the the weather will keep some from expressing feelings and friendship in person. Know that we are thinking of you and hoping that you find comfort in the fact that your mother lived a long life and enjoyed her family and career.
Regards,
Ray and Debbie Gurriere

debbie gurriere - February 13, 2014 at 12:40 PM

GM

Dear Nick, Chris, and the Peterson family-- Our deepest condolences for the passing of your mother. God bless! Gil and Carol Michael

Gil and Carol Michael - February 15, 2014 at 11:05 AM

KR

“ Nick and Chris, and family,

We are so sorry for your loss. Your mom was a treasure to us all and will be missed greatly. She was one of our "MOM'S" of our times. May she rest in peace and be remembered always.

Love,
Kostas and Emily Rantzos



Kostas and Emily Rantzos - February 13, 2014 at 08:23 AM

AN

“ I am so sorry for your loss. Although, I do not know your family personally, I would like to share some encouraging thoughts from the Bible. The Bible provides comfort during these difficult times. Revelation 21:3-4 states, And he will wipe out every tear from their eyes, and death will be no more, neither will mourning nor outcry nor pain be anymore. The former things have passed away. Very soon now, we will never experience losing our loved ones in death. May these words give you a new hope.

Ana - February 12, 2014 at 02:08 PM

BB

“ Nick & Chris,

So sorry about Mom. I always had a great time chatting with her about what was going on in Asheville. She was always a hoot & if you didn't want the truth, don't ask her. I know you will miss her tremendously and I will miss her wit and candor.

Much love to you both,
Barbara Kern Busey

Barbara Kern Busey - February 12, 2014 at 01:44 PM

MH

“ Nick, Chris and Family,

I am so very sorry for your loss. I'm going to miss your mother so very much. She was a dear friend to me and I will always treasure her in my heart. God Bless You all during this difficult time. Love Maxine.

Maxine Hodges - February 12, 2014 at 01:13 PM

RD

“ Dear Chris, Nick & Family...your mother/grandmother was a lovely funny feisty wonderful lady and dear friend. As far as we are concerned, she was part of our family. What an accomplished woman. Smart as can be. She will be dearly missed. God rest her beautiful soul and may she rest in forever peace. We know she'll have God laughing and keeping him on his toes. She'll be in our heart and memory forever.
Ray Dean, Dr. Hope and Anna Xenakis & Family

Ray Dean - February 12, 2014 at 10:17 AM

MY

“ Dear Chris ,Nick and families, our deepest sympathy for the loss of your mother .our thoughts and prayers will be with you. May her memory be eternal. Lots of love , Maria, Jim, and,Nick



maria yianopolous - February 12, 2014 at 09:59 AM

LH

To Dena's family,
Just saying her name still makes me smile. Dena was my Home Health Supervisor at the Health Department in the late 70's, and from that experience, I have many fun and wonderful memories. Old friends from the Health Department days have been emailing memories back and forth since we heard she passed. She is still making us laugh out loud. There was no one else like her.
Lynn Harkins Hollifield

Lynn Harkins Hollifield - February 13, 2014 at 12:23 PM

JB

“ Chris and Nick my sincerest condolences to you and your families. I will always treasure my memories of "Aunt" Dena.

Jeff Bannister - February 11, 2014 at 08:25 PM

TD

“ Chris and Nick, We are sorry to hear of the passing of your mom. She was a wonderful lady. May God Bless you and the family in your time of sorrow.

Mr. and Mrs. Angelo Dotsikas and Family

Tula Dotsikas - February 11, 2014 at 10:49 AM

AP

“ Chris and Nick I'm so sorry for the loss of your mom. She was such a little spit fire. Our thoughts and prayers are with your families.

Alyson Pressley-Shipmsn - February 10, 2014 at 03:24 PM

MK

“ Chris and Nick I was so sorry to hear of the loss of your mom. We saw her just before Christmas and we gave her a musical navitivity snowglobe and she said she used to have one just like it when she was at home. She really enjoyed it along with the flowers and pasteries. My thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Margaret Koutris.

Margaret Koutris - February 10, 2014 at 02:28 PM

VC

“ Victoria Chakales lit a candle in memory of Mrs. Dena Castanes Peterson



Victoria Chakales - February 10, 2014 at 10:09 AM

VC

Chris and Nick I am so sorry to learn about your mom's passing she was an lovely lady our prayers are with you all. Victoria and Libby Chakales

victoria chakales - February 10, 2014 at 10:58 AM

TB

“ *Chris and Nick,
I am very sorry to hear about the passing of your Mother. My thoughts & prayers are with you and your family during this time.
Tammy Baldwin
TD Bank, Asheville NC*

Tammy Baldwin - February 10, 2014 at 08:30 AM

BB

My sympathy to both of you, Nick and Chris. So many golden memories of your mother will always remain with me. Mother will deeply miss her.

Bob Bannister - February 11, 2014 at 12:34 PM