



Peter Chapman Van Metre

January 18, 1956 - May 8, 2021

Peter Chapman Van Metre (b. 1-18-56) died on Saturday evening May 8, 2021 in a tragic motor vehicle accident in East Texas, en route to visit his oldest daughter and her family. He was 65. His wife Barbara Mahler was critically injured and remains hospitalized. Their beloved dog Bella was also killed.

Born in Waterloo, the youngest son of Judge and Mrs. Peter and Lucie Van Metre, Pete (then known as “Chip”) graduated from West High School in 1974, where he was a champion wrestler and average student, before going onto college at the U. of Iowa and then the U. of South Florida. He married Lynn Elikan and raised 3 children in Tampa, FL; Tacoma, WA; Tucson, AZ; and Austin, TX. He married Barbara in 2007, his partner in work and in life. Pete was active, thoughtful, supportive, and kind, a good person, and a great dad.

Pete’s 40-year career at the U.S. Geological Survey began as a technician and ended as scientist emeritus. Along the way, he earned an M.S. in Hydrology from the U. of Arizona at age 33 and a Ph.D. in Geology from the University of Rouen, France, at age 51. An athlete and outdoorsman in his youth, he became a pioneering environmental scientist, authoring over 100 scientific articles on water quality, and beloved as a mentor and colleague. His discovery that polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (known human carcinogens) were increasing in U.S. water bodies over time due to the coal-tar sealant

used on parking lots and other surfaces led him to testify before Congress and to state and municipal bans that protect 25 million Americans today and counting.

Pete received a Department of the Interior Meritorious Service Award in 2017 and retired in Fall 2020. When not Thinking Great Thoughts, Pete was planning to work with Barbara in their heirloom apple orchard in southwestern New Mexico, enjoy life off the grid in the south of France, relax with friends at their home in Austin, paint more, talk politics with his brother, and spend time with his 3 grown children and 3 young grandchildren. Since 2017, Pete and Barb had rebuilt the unkempt orchard, rapidly learning to be orchardists, handcrafting cider on a 100+ year old press, and sharing the project lovingly with family and friends, new and old.

Pete is survived by his wife Barbara, his brother Joseph (Susan), his former wife Lynn and their children Laura (Aaron Baum), Emily (Jordan Krinsky), and Sam and grandchildren (Mira, Yael, Miles), and his stepmother Jan Van Metre of Waterloo. He is preceded in death by his brother Charlie, father Peter Van Metre, and mother Lucie Rathert. The funeral service took place May 14, 2021 at Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park in Austin, TX. Pete was quick to smile and every project he undertook was full of laughter. He lived a rich, full life, and we bid him farewell much too soon.

Pete was a good citizen and a steward of the planet. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Percha-Animas Watershed Association (near his orchard in New Mexico), Save our Springs (in Austin), the Sierra Club, or other charity of your choice. For tax exempt donations to the watershed, checks should be made out to "Southwest Research and Information Center" and mailed to Max Yeh, P.O. Box 156, Hillsboro, NM 88042. Correspondences can be sent to PeterVanMetreFamily@gmail.com or c/o Laura Baum, 256 McKinley Ave, New Haven, CT, 06515 (after 7/1).

Thank you for visiting Peter Chapman Van Metre's Tribute page. Please reach out to lauravanmetre@gmail.com for anything.

You may follow Barbara's progress here: <https://www.caringbridge.org/visit/barbaramahler>

Donations in Dad's memory are gratefully accepted at a charity of your choice. Some ideas below:

Percha-Animas Watershed Association in Kingston, NM near the apple orchard*

Sierra Club (local or national chapters)

Save Our Springs (Austin charity that he supported)

Texas Husky Rescue (where Bella was from)

*for tax exempt donation to the watershed:

1. The check is made out to Southwest Research and Information Center (SRIC).

2. SRIC is located at 105 Stanford, SE, PO Box 4524, Albuquerque, N.M. 87916.

3. Telephone: (505) 262-1862; email: info@src.org; contact person: Don Hancock.

4. SRIC is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization with the EIN 23-7159949.

5. Accompanying letter should specify that the donation is for the

Hillsboro/PAWA Litigation Fund in honor of Peter Van Metre.

With love,

Laura, Emily, and Sam

Previous Events

Computer Accessible Graveside Service

MAY 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

Austin Natural Funerals Facebook Page
<http://facebook.com/austinnaturalfunerals>

Funeral Service

MAY 14. 11:00 AM (CT)

Eloise Woods Natural Burial Park
115 Northside Lane
Cedar Creek, TX 78612

Zoom Memorial Service

MAY 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Zoom Meeting Room

Tribute Wall



“ *Austin Natural Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre*



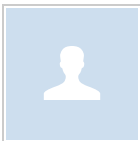
Austin Natural Funerals - May 14, 2021 at 07:48 PM



“ *Austin Natural Funerals created a Funeral Service at Eloise Woods in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre*



Austin Natural Funerals - May 14, 2021 at 01:17 PM



“ *Peter Chapman Van Metre*

October 14, 2022 at 12:02 PM



“ My husband John and I were so happy when Pete, his former wife Lynn and their three children relocated to Tucson more than thirty years ago for Pete’s then position at the U.S. Geological Survey. We had recently done the same for John’s job at the USGS. Laura and Emily were such wonderful kids and they were the same ages as our two daughters. They all ended up getting along really well, while everyone loved the adorable younger brother Sam. We had many fun times with their family, even traveling to Mexico together. After Pete and his family had moved to Austin, we met to cross-country ski in New Mexico.

Pete was a wonderful father. He managed to get good behavior from his children, while being loving and fun. He did very many things capably, yet was always humble and interested in others.

Recently, my husband was creating an invitational flyer for a USGS retiree reunion, but he was actually not particularly interested in attending it. He told me that if Pete decided to go, then he would go. That was just before we heard the sad news about Pete. What a loss this is to Pete’s family and to the many people in his life. Our condolences to all his loved ones.

Kathy Steiner-Callahan

Kathy Steiner - June 10, 2021 at 05:09 PM

HC

“ Visiting you and John Bowsby in your dorm room at Hillcrest, U of I, 1975-1976.

holly a croskey - June 02, 2021 at 08:57 PM

EF

“Pete was a colleague and friend almost from the moment we met, and his friendship, and that of his wife Barbara, was one of the most wonderful experiences in my time at the USGS. I was so excited for Pete and all the plans he had for retirement, and so crushed by his untimely passing. I will treasure memories of working in the field with Pete, collecting sediment cores in Rocky Mountain National Park, meeting with him over great meals across the US, discussing science and life, visiting with him and Barbara in Austin. The world has lost a wonderful scientist, man, and lover of earth in all its diversity, at a time when he had so much more to give to a world that sorely needs his wisdom and example. Peter you will be long remembered and sorely missed.

*Ed Furlong
Scientist Emeritus US Geological Survey
Evergreen, Colorado*

Ed Furlong - May 30, 2021 at 05:42 PM

AN

“Pete (or Mr. Van Metre to me) was such a solid presence in my childhood. Whenever I visited to hang out with Emily (and Laura and Sam), he was there to let us have our shenanigans. I am so thankful for his part in raising such wonderful people. And I know he'll continue to inspire. May his memory be a blessing. Many hugs,
annie nguyen

annie nguyen - May 25, 2021 at 07:00 PM

CM

“The world has lost a first class scientist and a wonderfully gentle spirit. You will be missed by so many. Rest in peace my friend.
Cherie Miller

Cherie Miller - May 18, 2021 at 02:55 PM

SR

“ I only met Peter last year at the SUSE5 meeting in Austin. We hit it off very well, and I always looked forward to interacting with him. He will be sorely missed by the scientific community as well as those that knew him.

Stuart Reichler - May 16, 2021 at 10:21 PM

MO

“ Pete had three traits that always, ALWAYS shined through: generosity, a sense of humor and a can-do attitude. Pete always seemed willing to share his expertise and time with grace. We miss you, Pete. I will always remember you with fondness.

Mohan

Mohan - May 16, 2021 at 10:16 PM

JB

“ I first met Pete in Tucson as he was working on a Master's degree and I was wrapping up my Ph.D. at the University of Arizona in the late 1980's. We both worked for USGS Water Resources Division, he for the Arizona District Office and I for the National Research Program office on Tumamoc Hill. I liked Pete right away. For the past three decades, every time I would heard his name, I got a warm feeling and envisioned his pleasant face, that wonderful smile and sonorous voice. I followed his career and was amazed by his scientific creativity and all he was able to accomplish. Pete was a star in USGS. In summer 2016, I invited Pete to give one of the plenary talks at the American Quaternary Association Biennial Meeting in Santa Fe. The subject of his talk was "Reconstructing Anthropogenic contaminant trends using lake and reservoir sediment cores," synthesize work of Pete's that I had admired for decades. Peter gave a great talk and my paleo colleagues ate it up. I saw Pete and Barbara again in 2017 when they both received Meritorious Service Awards ceremony at the USGS National Center in Reston. What an amazing and gracious couple they formed. My condolences to their family and friends.

Julio Betancourt, USGS Scientist Emeritus, Reston, Va

Julio L Betancourt - May 15, 2021 at 08:15 PM

BG

“ Bob Gilliom lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre



Bob Gilliom - May 15, 2021 at 04:15 PM

CH

“ *I will always regret booking the wrong date.
I'm so so sorry*



Chris - May 15, 2021 at 03:05 AM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Slideshow*



Austin Natural Funerals - May 14, 2021 at 10:39 PM



“ To Pete, my brother in law and friend,

Travel well most amazing man. We will hold you in our hearts, we will hear your laugh, and remember that infectious smile.

We will look at your paintings and your wrought iron work and marvel at your creativity. We will listen to the testimonials of your co-workers and we will be inspired by the energy and passion you brought to your work. We will remember the fullness of your life and seemingly boundless energy you brought to it.

I will remember the times you were there for me, times of need in which you selflessly sacrificed your time and energy to help me take steps I needed to take. I will remember the times we cooked together, shared those meals, and laughed out loud.

I will remember going with you and Barbara to take Bella for her jaunts around the neighborhood and I will remember walks at Turkey Creek.

Mostly I will remember you for the huge and unconditional love you had for my sister Barbara. She was never as happy as when she was with you my brother. Thank you for helping her to fill in the missing part of an already full life.

I will miss you forever my dear brother and friend, but I will always have you in my heart and in my memories.

Thank you so much for what you brought to our lives.

David Mahler

David Mahler - May 14, 2021 at 07:53 PM

GH

“ When I started working for the USGS in Fort Worth in 2001, I was introduced shortly afterwards to Pete. He asked me to write a report for one of his many coring projects. What he really offered was a chance for a young and inexperienced hydrologist like me to learn from him and cut my teeth on my first publication under his mentorship. I can't thank him enough for giving me that opportunity and experience. Pete was everything people have said. He was humble, kind, funny, and helpful. I helped Pete, Barb, and Jennifer Wilson with fieldwork several times after that and always enjoyed our time together. Thanks Pete!

Glenn R Harwell - May 14, 2021 at 04:56 PM

JC

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Judy Crane - May 14, 2021 at 04:08 PM

JC

“Pete's funeral service this morning was lovely. His kids were so poised and amazing. I liked the chirping birds in the background. Thank-you for making the video available. I was looking through my files of Pete. He sent me these photos in 2011 of a backpacking trip he and Barbara took in the Sierra's in Sept. 2010. It captures their happiness and love so well.

Judy Crane



Judy Crane - May 14, 2021 at 04:05 PM

CF

“2 files added to the album Memories Album



Chris Fuller - May 14, 2021 at 12:45 PM

JW

“Pete... You enriched my life growing up with you. The great memories and fun times together were endless. Rest In Peace my dear friend.

Joe Webber



Joseph Webber - May 14, 2021 at 12:43 PM

NK

“ *Nile Kemble lit a candle in memory of Peter
Chapman Van Metre* ”



Nile Kemble - May 14, 2021 at 12:33 PM

CF

“ I am truly saddened at the tragic loss of my dear friend and colleague, Pete. I am heartbroken for Barb. I began collaborating with Pete in the early '90s providing sediment radionuclide chronology and source identification for many of his projects. With Pete based in Texas and me in California, we didn't meet in person until a couple years later when I tracked him down at an AGU meeting in San Francisco, We hit it off very well. Our collaboration expanded over the years as did our friendship. We both learned much from each other over almost 30 years of collaboration, jointly publishing 11 journal articles and reports, with several more to come that we'll somehow complete without him to honor his efforts. I always looked forward to meeting up with Pete and Barb at meetings and conferences. Pete was one of few scientists I've known whose talent far exceeded his ego. His willingness to listen to other's ideas and discuss different approaches to interpreting data led to many successful studies with an always widening cast of collaborators. I recall numerous times Pete would call me and say "gotta minute, I have a quick question". These calls typically led to hour-long brain storming sessions that were highly productive. In person, these discussions were typically accompanied by a cold beer or two, a glass of fine wine, or an excellent meal at a restaurant that he and Barb found. Many memories of great science and spirited social gatherings, which rarely had a clear dividing line. The highlight for me was a lake core sampling trip in the Wind River Mountains. Pete and Barb had organized a mule team to carry in the sampling gear and inflatable boat while we backpacked to the lake. Because the mules could carry more than the gear, bottles of wine and pre-made food found their way out of Pete's truck and into the mule packs. I'm guessing this was planned. No roughing it in the field with Pete and Barb despite the hard work. I will carry Pete's spirit and inspiration with me forever. Pete and Barb are in my thoughts and prayers.

Chris Fuller - May 14, 2021 at 12:22 PM

JN

“ *Julia Norman lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre*



Julia Norman - May 14, 2021 at 12:17 PM

JF

“ *I was fortunate to get to know Pete through our Midwest Stream Quality Assessment study. Although I did not know Pete before this, Pete and I drove many miles through the 13 states and It became clear that he was a genuine good person, a smart scientist on many topics with an inquisitive mind, and willingness to talk about anything. He could quickly make you feel like we had been friends forever. Always upbeat and looking for ways to make things better. One example of what made Pete special was his thoughtfulness. To thank me for the work we did on the Midwest study Pete painted me a painting that hangs in my office. It was during his "fish period" and it is one of my most treasured gifts as looking at it brings me back to one of the most fun times of my life. Pete will be missed immensely but he had a huge impact on people and science.*

Jeff Frey



Jeff Frey - May 14, 2021 at 12:16 PM

CJ

“ *Celeste Journey lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre*



Celeste Journey - May 14, 2021 at 12:09 PM

TS

“ *What I'll miss about Pete, his insatiable curiosity, his kindness, his unusually deep laugh if a little geeky it was totally contagious, leading by doing, and his mentorship. He was a giant who let others stand on his shoulders. I was lucky enough in life to get to know and work with you. Rest well my friend.*

Travis Schmidt - May 14, 2021 at 11:40 AM

MM

“ *Mike Meador lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre*



Mike Meador - May 14, 2021 at 11:40 AM

DU

“ *David Saad, USGS lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre*



David Saad, USGS - May 14, 2021 at 10:41 AM

TB

“ When I moved to Austin, TX in May of 2009 to join the U.S. Geological Survey, I had no idea about how fortunate I would be to join such an incredible and important agency, but also to meet and get to know such phenomenal people. Pete was one of them, as I was connected to him in summer of 2009 to help them with database work for their Contaminant Trends in Lake Sediments study. Within a very short amount of time I knew that Pete would be great to work with, and it was apparent that he was an expert in his field and had done substantial work, all the while being completely unassuming and easy going. I never felt like I was handling the "junior stuff" being the new guy even at the outset. As I got to know Pete, as well as Barbara and their sediment coring team, I really began to appreciate how lucky I was to get paired up to help them with what started as building and designing a database as well as GIS analyses but grew into a more involved role as the USGS program we worked on progressed. I thoroughly enjoyed having to go talk to Pete about a design question or something he asked me to do because I knew I'd likely get to have an extended conversation with him about a particular paper he was working on, or the project, and I would learn some interesting new things. Often the conversations would meander into other non-work things, life and career in general, and other important topics. When I would talk about "what I do" when asked by friends and family, I would often go to the work that Pete led on issues related to coal-tar sealcoat and PAHs and their sediment coring studies. It was impactful, interesting, and I felt privileged to be involved with it and to get to work with such an esteemed scientist and great team in our science center. Pete was an irreplaceable natural-born leader, interesting person and all around good guy, and the epitome of all that is good about the science and the dedicated people that make up the U.S. Geological Survey. The legacy of his work will live on forever not only in the publications he's done but the tangible impacts and changes in policy resulting from it. This is a devastating loss and it hurts to think about it, but I will remain thankful for the nearly 12 years I got to know Pete and work with him. He was genuine and the real deal. USGS colleagues really are like family, and the people

that work for USGS truly are the best thing about it parallel with the mission.

Tom Burley - May 14, 2021 at 09:02 AM

RS

“ Instead of dwelling on the lack of lab access thanks to the pandemic, this past year for the Urban Ecosystems undergraduate research lab at UT Austin was filled with an amazing educational and productive research experience learning exploratory data analysis using the USGS RSQA dataset with the help of Peter and his wife Barbara who, through a chance encounter, became our collaborators, advisors, and friends over zoom from their New Mexico apple orchard. We started through a contact with Barbara, but as our meetings were on zoom from their home, Peter soon joined in too. They shared their knowledge and advice, answered our questions thoughtfully, and supported my students in ways that helped them feel like the scientists they are becoming. Here are some of the thoughts from the students who were last working with Peter and Barbara just a few weeks ago, when they patiently listened and gave amazing feedback to each student practice presenting their research posters:

‘I never had the honor of meeting Pete in person but even through a zoom screen I could tell how kind he was. Pete always listened attentively to all of us, I could tell that he cared both about our research and us, which means a lot coming from a successful scientist. I am saddened that we will no longer have the pleasure of meeting with him on Wednesdays at 7pm.’ (Dina) “If you could find a way to mention how grateful I am that he showed my work to a board of senior scientists, that would mean a lot to me. I’ve been struggling with a lot of regret for not thanking him more for that because it had a huge impact on me as a researcher and in general.” (Lauren) “I am just utterly heartbroken and terribly sad for Dr. Mahler. I am holding on to the faith that she will recover and get through this.” (Anthony) “Barb and Pete defined the kind of researcher I wanted to be: kind, intelligent, successful in their field, all while balancing a beautiful life with their apple orchards. I think they are amazing people and I don’t know what else to say more than that ... they were role models for me, honestly.” (Noel) We are heartbroken at this loss and our thoughts will be with their family as you lay Peter to rest.

Ruth Shear - May 14, 2021 at 01:45 AM

JG

“ *As the reports specialist for the Oklahoma-Texas Water Science Center I had the privilege of reviewing the papers Pete wrote for approximately 10 of his outstanding 40-year career. I always looked forward to getting a paper from Pete because I knew it was going to be well written and backed by a good study design that was meticulously carried out to support the findings it presented. When Pete and Barbara pioneered the research that led to the discovery of how coal tar sealants applied to asphalt were the major source of PAHs in the streams and lakes, it was a culmination of years of inquisitive sediment chemistry detective work as they patiently solved the riddle of how the contaminants in the sediment got there and deciphered the complex environmental and human health implications. Pete’s enthusiasm for sharing his knowledge with his colleagues and getting the findings of their studies before water managers and decision makers was unbounded. Pete epitomized the attributes that make me proud to work for the USGS and I will miss him dearly.*

John Gordon - May 14, 2021 at 01:22 AM

MH

“ *When I started working at the USGS Pete provided valuable insight into my many questions about how conduct successful research. Seeing Pete at conferences and meetings was always a highlight whether we were discussing science or enjoying a good meal.*

Michelle Hladik - May 13, 2021 at 09:17 PM

DC

“ *What I love most about Pete is his unquenchable cheerful and positive attitude. I'm sure he had his unhappy moments, but he was always able to exude positive energy around us, his colleagues. Pete's curiosity and enthusiasm are a force of nature, never to be extinguished by something so natural as death...but my heart is broken that we've lost his companionship so soon...*

Daren Carlisle - May 13, 2021 at 08:17 PM

DR

“ *Pete was one of my favorite USGS colleagues. Not only is that saying a lot, there's a whole lot of us who would say that. Pete made the world a better place in so many different ways. We've all got a huge job ahead of us in paying that forward. After the fantastic tour of Barton Springs from Barbara and Pete some years ago, I'm starting there.*

Don Rosenberry - May 13, 2021 at 06:26 PM

BB

“ *I'll never forget hearing about the effect of Coal-Tar-Based Pavement Sealcoat on concentrations of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in nearby receiving waters. I just made a donation to Save Our Springs in memory of Pete. Thank you Pete (and Barbara) for this great research.*

Barbara Bekins - May 13, 2021 at 05:51 PM

KC

“ *Katie Callahan lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre*



Katie Callahan - May 13, 2021 at 05:18 PM

AB

“ I was lucky enough to work with Pete over the past few years as part of USGS WMA. Pete was always kind, responsive, and helpful. His legacy will live on at the USGS and we will continue to remember him for many years to come. My condolences to his family...

Adrienne Bartlewitz - May 13, 2021 at 04:55 PM

PM

“ I first met Pete when he moved to Texas to work with NAWQA. His office was directly across from my desk. We had many conversations concerning how things were done in Texas. Pete's best quality was how he treated individuals. He was not impressed by titles or positions. He considered everyone equal with no distinction for one's status in life or work. He was gracious, kind, compassionate, considerate of others, and not judgmental. He was a great conversationalist, always willing to talk and provide information. A side of Pete I found amazing was his painting ability which one could see in the many paintings displayed in his office. Pete's integrity, content of character, dedication to science, and work ethic were beyond reproach. His smile and laughter could always brighten one's day. Working with Pete was always pleasant and easy. So sad that after 40 years of service, Pete did not get to enjoy a long retirement with Barb, his family, colleagues, and friends. He will be greatly missed because of the unique relationship he had with each individual he knew.

Penny MacDonnell - May 13, 2021 at 03:40 PM

TS

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Thomas Sample - May 13, 2021 at 03:09 PM

TS

A teaching moment captured near High Island, TX, January 2016
Photo taken by Jennifer Wilson

Thomas Sample - May 13, 2021 at 03:12 PM

JC

“ Judy Crane lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre



Judy Crane - May 13, 2021 at 02:48 PM

PM

“ Penny MacDonnell lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre



Penny MacDonnell - May 13, 2021 at 11:07 AM

CW

“ I've worked with Pete coring lakes in many places in the U.S. He was a smart scientist with a calm demeanor. If a problem came up he would have a smooth solution available. He truly loved his work and he definitely made a difference. His shoes will be hard to fill. He will be sorely missed. Rest in peace Pete!

Craig Weiss - May 13, 2021 at 08:38 AM

RB

“ Chip, as I knew him from childhood, was my second cousin. We grew up in Waterloo, Iowa. I remember dinners at his grandmother Maybeth's house. Chip and his two brothers and my two brothers all hung out while me, being the youngest by five years and only girl, hung out with the grown-ups. Fast forward to the early 2000s, and Chip visited the Twin Cities twice to collect lake samples for work and looked me up. He was easy to talk to, smart, and had a good sense of humor, like his father. My heart breaks for his wife, children, grandchildren, step-mother, Jan, and brother, Mack, on his tragic and untimely death. He was a kind and gentle soul who will be sorely missed. My deepest sympathy, Robin Corton Bellamy

Robin Corton Bellamy - May 12, 2021 at 09:13 PM

MS

“ Milton W Sunvison lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre



Milton W Sunvison - May 12, 2021 at 02:24 PM

MD

“ The passing of Pete is terribly sad, untimely and unfair. I have known Pete and Barb for many years through their formative and important scientific contributions. Pete was an exceptionally clear thinking scientist and a wonderful person. I had the pleasure of visiting Pete and Barb in Austin several years ago. They combined a love of science, a love of the arts, and a love of life. My deepest condolences to Barb and to Pete's family. I'm just so sorry.

Miriam Diamond - May 12, 2021 at 01:19 PM

 Elin Ulrich

“ I'm devastated by the loss of a(nother) scientific colleague. Pete and I have published together, and shared AMAZING meals at SETAC meetings. Pete and Barb always knew where the best restaurants were, but it wasn't just about the food, their company multiplied the amazing. I'll think of Pete whenever I see a parking lot being sealed and wonder about the PAHs leaching off the surface into the surrounding water and sediments.

Elin Ulrich - May 12, 2021 at 12:51 PM

JL

“ Jerri Lamb lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre



Jerri Lamb - May 12, 2021 at 12:45 AM

DE

“ Pete's signature was his warm smile. What a wonderful man and loving husband to Barbara. He will be greatly missed

Deborah - May 11, 2021 at 07:31 PM

JC

“ I’ve know Pete since 2008 and instantly liked him. Personable and humble, I had no idea of his intellect and reputation as a scientist. I just thought he was a cool guy from Iowa. I only knew Pete from hallway conversations and an occasional lunch on the office picnic table. I’ve always said you can tell how good they are in their field by how modest they act about what they’ve done. To share what kind of caring people Pete and Barbara are, they brought my wife and I a meal when we were in the hospital with our infant son. Although my family is saddened by Pete’s passing, we choose to remember the vigorous life he lived and will strive to be better people because he blessed us in this world.

Joe Capesius - May 11, 2021 at 07:10 PM

DH

“ Donna Hector lit a candle in memory of Peter Chapman Van Metre



Donna Hector - May 11, 2021 at 04:59 PM

DH

Terrible loss to the USGS family.

Donna Hector - May 11, 2021 at 05:00 PM

PB

“ We here in the Kingston, NM community are saddened to hear of Pete's passing. He would walk past my property with Barb and Bella often. We would meet on walks and chat and say hello, while our pups had their greetings. The apple orchard was ready to thrive once again because of their care and diligence. He will be greatly missed.

Pam & Skip Bennett - May 11, 2021 at 10:18 AM