



Matthew T. Peter

July 25, 1985 - December 14, 2023

Albany, NY-Matthew Thomas Peter, 38, entered the Good Place on Thursday, December 14, 2023. He was born on July 25, 1985, in Manhasset, New York to William Peter and Nancy Peter (Flacks).

Matthew was a born leader. As a child his siblings and friends, at his behest, called him “The General.” In school, he was known for always carrying a pack of gum as the opener for conversation and friendship. As an adult he was known for his warmth, his wit, and his generosity. He was passionately curious and a keen observer of people and the world around him.

A voracious reader and a consummate knowledge seeker, he would happily tell you anything you wanted to know (or didn't) about everything from Greek mythology to Middle East policy to the bureaucratic machinations of state and local government. He loved to travel, but his heart was always with the city he called home.

Matthew first came to the Capital City to attend the State University at Albany, where he earned his bachelor's and master's degrees, and then spent his adult life working to make Albany better.

After working in the Governor's Office, the State Department of Taxation and Finance and the State Senate, Matthew ran Kathy Sheehan's inaugural race

for mayor and later became her first Chief of Staff. In 2016, he became Executive Director of the Albany Parking Authority where he took pride in making it profitable and a vehicle for improving conditions in the city. A childhood growing up in suburban Long Island made him a big believer in urban living, but he missed the bagels. He made his home in Center Square and was a champion for the Lark Street community. In 2019, he was appointed to the Albany County Legislature representing the Fifth District. He was elected to that post twice, most recently this past November.

He spearheaded beautification efforts with the Capital Walls mural program and helped build out the city's infrastructure for electric vehicles. In 2021, Matthew helped get new state legislation passed and signed into law that modernized and expanded the power of the Parking Authority.

He was universally respected in the County Legislature, where his work ethic, intelligence and intellectual honesty earned him admirers from across the political spectrum. He believed government could be a force of positive change and that politics is the art of addition, not subtraction.

Matthew also believed a society can only be truly judged by how it treats the least fortunate among us. During the pandemic, he co-founded Feed Albany to help ensure no one went hungry during that crisis. In the County Legislature, he championed new policies that provided treatment for those with mental health and substance abuse issues who come into contact with police.

He also served on the boards of Park Playhouse, Capitalize Albany and the Albany County Visitors Bureau.

Above all else he loved his friends and family. Matthew showed his love through acts of service and quality time, as was reflected in the always open

door to his home, with a meal and drink offered to all who entered, and in his immense generosity and kindness to everyone he knew and those he didn't.

Matthew always suspected his time on Earth would be short and he made the most of every second. Every day was an adventure and a celebration of being alive. He would throw a party just for the sake of it and held tight his traditions. Every birthday, anniversary, holiday, Sunday dinner, beach week, weekend or day trip was an event and he made it specific and special for all who came along for the ride.

To carry on his celebration of being alive are his adored fiancé, Dr. Corinne McLeod, parents, Bill and Nancy Peter, sister Sara Peter (Pete Uzarwoski), brother Brian Peter, niece and goddaughter Gabriella Fanti; aunt Peggy Figueroa (Emil), uncles Edward and Thomas Peter and his beloved canine companion, Athena. Joining them in carrying on Matthew's legacy are his dearest friends: Amal Jacobson, Jessica Giordano, Richard Azzopardi, Abigail Barker, Brian Shea, and Becky English.

A celebration of Matthew's life will be held in January, with details to be announced in the coming weeks. In lieu of flowers, a donation can be made in Matthew's name to the Albany Damien Center and the Regional Food Bank of Northeastern New York.

To leave a special message for Matthew's family please visit www.McveighFuneralHome.com

Tribute Wall

MS

“ *MATT was a wonderful person. It is unfortunate that people like Matt are so rare. What a better world we would have if there were more people like him. As you get older hopefully we get wiser and with wisdom the value of selfless giving people like Matt is more completely understood and appreciated. He will be missed but never forgotten. Peace, my brother.*

MERTON D. SIMPSON - March 09, 2024 at 09:03 AM



“ *Matt was of great help to me early on in my career in the parking world. I took his vision from Albany and applied aspects of it to where I got my start in local government. Always available to help me out. Seeing him out in Albany too was always nice when I still lived in the area. Wishing the Peter family well during this difficult time.*

Josh Ringel - December 21, 2023 at 01:49 PM

DM

“ *A true statesman in my eyes! He was a man of strong convictions and practiced humanity in service to others, no matter where they came from. I prefer to remember his smile and what I learned from him on so many occasions. Praying for peace and comfort for family and friends.*

Dr. Carolyn McLaughlin - December 20, 2023 at 10:54 AM

JK

“ Matt was a great person, the epitome of a public servant, and a good friend. He was gifted with intelligence, industry, creativity, and a wonderful ability to connect with people. Matt was always looking for innovative ways to improve the lives of the people in his community. Matt was also charming, funny, and the most enthusiastic ambassador of the joys of living in the City of Albany that I ever met. The talents and spirit that he brought to the Albany County Legislature are irreplaceable. Our deepest condolences to Corinne, Matt's family, his colleagues, and his many, many friends.

-Jeff Kuhn and Family

Jeff Kuhn - December 20, 2023 at 10:09 AM

JE

“ Matt was my roomie in Glasgow during his year abroad where we shared an apartment with a collection of oddballs. He was so confident and self assured for someone of his age, he knew exactly what he wanted and how he wanted to get it, which seemed crazy at such a young age.

We had so many fun times that year, many, many nights out; many hours spent scrubbing oil off the wall from Matt's Alfredo cooking; and a rather memorable Christmas dinner where the window fell out while it was snowing outside!

We always kept in touch after that year together, and I came to visit him while travelling the US, where he was the best host, putting me up in his home and throwing me a party! Another visit he took me and my husband out for the lovely dinner, complemented by shots at a dive bar after.

Matt will always have a special place in my heart.

Jen x

Jen - December 20, 2023 at 04:58 AM

MM

“ As your roomie from day 1 at SUNY Albany, I was so fortunate to call you the first friend I made in college. Through 6 years of living together, I saw firsthand how intelligent, passionate, and generous you were. And also just a bit messy. Through the years you have always been a loyal friend, and helped me grow into the person I am today. I will cherish the memories of the many great times we had together. I know for certain that you were one of a kind. My heart goes out to all your family and friends. You will be missed.



Mike McCarthy - December 20, 2023 at 12:45 AM

MC

“ I knew Matt and was more directly involved with him earlier in his career, when he was involved on the Colonie Democratic Committee and working in Menands. This was quite a shock to the system, and reminds us all, Carpe diem. Matt's family and many friends have my deepest sympathies. I have made arrangements to have two trees planted in אָרץ יִשְׂרָאֵל in Matthew's blessed memory. One will be from my family and one will be from his many friends on the Colonie Democratic Committee. May HaShem grant succor at this difficult time to his family and many friends in the palm of His hand.

Matt Sissman, CDC - December 19, 2023 at 11:12 PM

AP

“ My deepest condolences go out to Matt's family. He will be missed, but may he rest in peace!



Aleksander Powietrzynski - December 19, 2023 at 07:47 PM

MB

“ *Mary B lit a candle in memory of Matthew T. Peter*



Mary B - December 19, 2023 at 07:32 PM

JW

“ *My deepest, most heartfelt condolences - Matthew was truly one of a kind; he always made time for others -even those he didn't know well - he was first to lend a hand, and did so with infectious enthusiasm - he was kind - that is what I remember most. Matthew will be missed tremendously, but never forgotten - Jess Wilcox*

jessica Wilcox - December 19, 2023 at 07:24 PM

MM

“ *How extraordinary to have touched so many lives and made such a difference in an all-too-brief time. And it's never ever enough time for all who loved Matt. Many people are reeling from his loss and I extend my deepest condolences to all of Matt's loved ones. I keep seeing his big smile the last time we spoke just a few days before his passing. No matter what was going on, or the challenges ahead, Matt always found the positive and made everyone feel they had his undivided attention. I know what he would tell us at this time. He would want to be remembered in joy, celebrated in community, and for his legacy to be service.*



Melanie McCulley - December 19, 2023 at 07:22 PM

RL

“ Matthew you were a good friend and a trusted partner in trying to make things better for the City. I am thankful for all the times we were able to spend together and for your friendship. Your impact in my life will be felt forever and you will never be forgotten. I pray for peace for Corrine and your family. I will forever smile at the mention of your name. Thank you my friend. Rest in Peace.

Rick LaJoy - December 19, 2023 at 06:00 PM

JL

Matthew, when you and I met we couldn't stop talking about everything. We especially couldn't stop talking about Star Wars. You were my #1 supporter in everything I did. I will forever cherish our memories we have made. Thank you for being an amazing friend Matt. Until we meet again. Rest in peace. 💙

Jordan LaJoy - December 19, 2023 at 06:51 PM

MT

I knew Matthew as a young boy growing up on Long Island. He attended the same elementary school as our children. Matt was friends with our son, Daniel, and he had many play dates together. They were also on the same soccer team for many years, with all the boys forming a tight group of friendship. I recognized very early that Matthew would be someone who thought outside of the box and was destined for making an impact. At a very young age he was much more mature and centered than his other school friends. He could hold a serious conversation with an adult, talk about things going on in the world and contribute to grown up discussions. He even offered to help me one day with chores 💖. Although I have not seen him for many years, I hold the sweetest memories of this little boy, with his big, beautiful eyes and long lashes. Our deepest sympathy to Nancy, Bill, Sara and Brian and the extended family. The world has lost a very special young man.

Marilyn Thabet and family

marilyn T. - December 20, 2023 at 08:36 AM

DC

I only met Matt a year ago, but in that time his deep love for his community and his passion for Albany had a profound impact on me. He was generous with his time and advice. People like Matt are impossible to replace. Rest in peace.

Dan Cerutti - December 20, 2023 at 10:24 AM

GC

So proud of all the achievements that Matthew made in his short life. We knew him as a young boy who went on to fill his dreams and he made a huge positive impact on all who knew him and projects he worked on. RIP

Gail Cruz - December 20, 2023 at 02:58 PM