



Peter H. Johnstone

July 13, 1946 - July 6, 2013

On Saturday, July 6, 2013, Peter H. Johnstone, “Pete,” passed away peacefully after a short battle with brain cancer. Born in Lakewood, Ohio, on July 13, 1946, to Stewart D. and Georgine C. Johnstone, Pete and his family moved to Albuquerque in 1955, and Pete spent the next 58 years loving everything about New Mexico. During that time, Pete did many things, had many interests and gained many personal friends and professional colleagues.

During high school, Pete attended and graduated from New Mexico Military Institute. He played football during his years there. He returned to Albuquerque to attend UNM and graduated with a bachelor’s degree in 1970. He was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. Pete then enrolled in the UNM School of Law, graduating in 1974. It was at that moment that his life’s work began. Over the next 40 years, Pete would practice law, first with the firm of Keleher and McLeod and then in his own law firm, Peter H. Johnstone, P.C. Known as an excellent trial lawyer, Pete belonged to both the Albuquerque Bar Association, serving at one time as its president and receiving the group’s “Outstanding Lawyer Award” in 1991, and the State Bar of New Mexico. His expertise in his field and his willingness to attend closely to his clients’ needs made him an exemplar for law students and for those new to the profession. Because of his dedication to the study and practice of law, the UNM Law School will award him one of four “Outstanding Achievement Awards” for 2013.

A fervent Lobo fan, Pete not only contributed his money to UNM but also his time. In addition to attending every game and banquet, Pete also served, since 2007, as a Trustee of the UNM Foundation. As an officer of the Foundation, Pete provided leadership in both policy development and communication issues. At his death, he was serving as the Chairman of the Compensation Committee. However, Pete's roots in UNM history go much farther back for in the 1970's, during the "Lobo Gate" scandal, Pete served as the attorney representing the University. Former UNM President Bud Davis cited Pete's work in defending UNM as "outstanding." Because of his loyalty to UNM and his unfailing support, Pete will be honored by UNM Athletics with the establishment of the "Peter Johnstone Student Athlete Assistance Fund," a fund that will help support the needs of student athletes which are allowed by the NCAA and not covered by scholarship. The Lobos have lost a true fan here on Earth but have gained a multitude of fans in Heaven. "Lobo on, Pete!" In his professional life, Pete was respected and admired. In his personal life, he was simply loved. Pete has hundreds of friends who will remember his generosity, his ever-present willingness to help in times of need and his unfailing spirit. He could always be counted on to make the bad better and to make the unreachable just a short arm's length away. An avid sports fan, Pete drove hundreds and hundreds of miles over the years to watch and support the Lobos. He spent literally thousands of hours watching any kind of sporting event that was on television. He could and did remember the most obscure facts for baseball, football and basketball and he loved the Dallas Cowboys who have lost a long-time, loyal fan. Additionally, Pete traveled thousands of miles to follow his love of golf. Whether attending a tournament or playing the famous courses around America, Pete marked his attendance by collecting a logo ball from each course and he has hundreds! Watch out when traveling through the Mountain West regions for Pete might just be lurking around the next bend!

"To a young heart everything is fun," wrote Charles Dickens, and to Pete everything was fun. He loved life, his family and his friends. He was a good

man and he will be mightily missed, but his vision, his courage and his indomitable spirit will live on in the hearts and minds of those who love him. Pete is survived by his son, Michael S. Johnstone and his companion, Jackie Burkett; his daughter, Meredith A. Johnstone and her companion Jason Inman; his former wife, Anne Begley Johnstone; his twin sister, Bonnie Johnstone Geer and her husband, Dennis F. Geer; and his long-time friends, Linda Flynn and Michelle Shook.

Services will be held Friday, July 12, 2013, 2:00 p.m., at FRENCH – Lomas. Interment will be in Sunset Memorial Park at a later date. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Peter Johnstone Athlete Assistance Fund. Make the check out to the UNM Foundation and write “Peter Johnstone” on the memo line. Mail your contribution to 700 Lomas NE, Two Woodward Center, Albuquerque, NM 87102.

FRENCH - Lomas
10500 Lomas Blvd. NE
(505) 275-3500

Previous Events

Memorial Service

JUL 12. 2:00 PM (MT)

FRENCH Funerals - Cremations (Lomas)

10500 Lomas Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87112

(505) 275-3500

<https://www.FrenchFunerals.com>

Tribute Wall



“ *French Funerals created a Tribute Video in memory of Peter H. Johnstone*



FRENCH Funerals & Cremations - July 06, 2013 at 12:00 AM

JO

“ *It's been over a year and I just found out about your passing, and wanted to say "Thanks" one more time to you Pete who gave me so much when I needed it most. A man of incredible knowledge and caring. Wish you were here.*

JOE

Joe - December 05, 2014 at 04:10 PM

WW

“ One Saturday in the summer of 1964 Peter and I were cruising rom VIP's big Boy to Franks drive-in and we decided to pass some beautiful girls to get a better look. We passed at an intersection and they turned left into us forcing us up on a curb and causing much chagrin between the two of us. Peter was a very dear friend to me and he had a significant influence on my young life from NMMI to UNM -SAE. I have so many memories of my times with all the Johnstones I just think of this one from time to time. I am very sorry to hear he has left us. He will live on in my heart. My sincerest condolences.

Woodrow P. Wilson, M.D.-Woody

woody wilson - September 05, 2013 at 04:30 PM

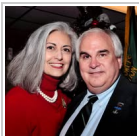
CR

“ Bonnie,

How sad to hear this news. i remember both of you so well from our days at UNM. such great memories-all the SAE parties!

Cheri Kirchner Rightmyer

Cheri Rightmyer - July 20, 2013 at 06:11 PM



“ In the fall of 1964, when I was a new cadet ("rat") at NMMI, Pete lived next door. He was kind to me when not everyone else was. My room mate ,Bob Little, and I pretty much idolized him. Pete was a football hero, and he was always hilarious to be around. He became a good friend, and he has remained in my thoughts over the years. From the other tributes that have been written, it appears Pete kept his integrity and sense of humor throughout his life. A life well lived is a wonderful thing. Rest well old friend.

Charles J. Watts, NMMI, '66, JC

Charles Watts - July 12, 2013 at 11:18 AM

LH

“ *He was my friend. I knew him as a lawyer that I could depend on. Now I must look for another with sadness. Larry Hill*

Lawrence H. Hill - July 11, 2013 at 09:11 PM

JB

“ *Pete Johnstone was an honorable man, and an excellent lawyer. Some would say this is a contradiction in terms. It is not. Above all, he was a good friend. I shall miss him. Judge Theresa Baca*

Judge Theresa Baca - July 11, 2013 at 01:51 PM



“ *Blue & White Sympathy Basket was purchased for the family of Peter H. Johnstone.*



July 11, 2013 at 07:55 AM

BF

“ *Meredith and Michael, my heartfelt sympathy and condolences go out to you and your family. Peter was caring, kind and always concerned about his friends as well as his clients. He loved "taking care of it" and he will be missed sorely. He will be with us all forever.*

Bob Feinberg

Bob Feinberg - July 11, 2013 at 07:46 AM

JK

“ *Peter was a personification of generosity. He will be missed.*

John & Sheila Kennedy

John & Sheila Kennedy - July 10, 2013 at 07:36 PM

AS

“ *Dear Meredith,*

I was deeply saddened to hear about the passing of your father, Pete. Although I only had the privilege of meeting him a few times, every time I saw him he was warm, kind and always had a smile on his face. I know that he was a great father because he raised you to be such a smart, beautiful and loving person. I will keep you and your family in my thoughts and prayers.

Alicia Santos

Alicia Santos - July 10, 2013 at 03:23 PM

 Cheryl
Dix

“ *I was so very sad and shocked to hear of Pete's passing. I have very fond memories of him and Linda during our various legal dealings at the Chevy dealership. What a great man!! My prayers and thoughts are sent out to all those that loved him. May God comfort you all. Cheryl Dix*

Cheryl Dix - July 10, 2013 at 12:27 PM

JD

“ Bonnie, I can't imagine the sadness you must be feeling from your loss. I can easily remember the very close and easy bond that you and Peter shared. I can still see Peter laughing and climbing into the '65 Mustang in the driveway, in my mind Peter will be forever young. From reading the expressed thoughts of others on this page I have learned that Peter grew into the kind and generous man that your parents had raised him to be. Please hold tight to your memories of Peter for comfort, and lean on your friends for strength.

Jack Dillon

Jack Dillon - July 09, 2013 at 10:40 PM

NS

“ Pete was one of the kindest and most generous man I have ever met. He was a tremendous friend to my family. He had a way of treating you like you knew him all your life when you first met him. It was one of his many gifts. Many a laugh will be cherished about the time spent on the golf course. Men like Pete do not come around often and I send his family light,love and the best of intentions.God Bless You. Nancy Stiver

nancy stiver - July 09, 2013 at 06:42 PM

PA

“ Bonnie, I was so saddened to hear of Pete's passing. The 3 of us grew up in the same Inez neighborhood.My sincerest condolences. Partha Louise (Hake)

Partha - July 09, 2013 at 05:50 PM



“ *Pete was an alumni of Sigma Alpha Epsilon when I was a pledge. He always encouraged me in my goals and aspirations. He will be missed by all who knew and loved him. Phi Alpha, brother Pete.*

Rudy Chavez - July 09, 2013 at 02:03 PM



“ *I was so sorry to hear the news. My heart and prayers go out to his family. Peter was such a kind and giving person. I worked at Keleher and although I didn't work closely with him, I just always admired him because so many staff members shared stories of his willingness to help them with legal matters or personal problems. He always took the time and he flet compassion for others. Peter had a generaoous and giving heart and we know the LORD loves a Cheerful Giver. May the LORD comfort you and bring you peace to know that he has taken Peter home to share his love and kindness with all of heaven!*

Tresa Montoya

Tresa Montoya - July 09, 2013 at 01:34 PM

CG

“ *Michael, Mere and Ann, I am so sorry for your loss. I enjoyed my time working for Peter. I remember my first week there and we got the threats..he was so calm and collective and even funny about it. I have wonderful memories of lunch stories and conversations and our trip to Las Vegas and the big hole (the Grand Canyon). He taught me so much and I am grateful and blessed to have known him. He was a loving, caring and VERY generous man. I love you Peter and will forever remember, cherish and miss you!!*

Carla Garcia



Carla Garcia - July 09, 2013 at 01:20 PM

RR

“ Dear Bonnie, Michael and Meredith,
Please accept my most sincere condolences. I am SO glad I got to have a great visit with Pete last September at our Colts reunion. Although he acknowledged (and it was obvious) that he had suffered considerable medical problems, the spirit that I remembered from 1961-1964 at NMMI was fully there.

Bonnie you may remember Pete and I were roommates our Junior year. We talked about and I remember so well visiting your family in ABQ those many years ago. What a wonderful pair your parents were. And I remember you and I wading out knee deep in the street in a rainstorm! Ah youth!

Michael and Meredith- your Dad was a prince of a man- whose joy for life rubbed off on all who were fortunate to know him. I only regret I left NM in 1964 seldom to return and enjoy visiting with your Dad.

All Best wishes,

Rick Rhoades
45 Hillside Acres Lane
Mount Jackson, VA 22842

Rick Rhoades - July 09, 2013 at 01:15 PM

MC

“ Michael & Mere, I love you both dearly and I am so sorry for your loss. I loved your dad more than I can truly say. He was a wonderful uncle, friend, boss, and just an overall great man. I can't tell you how grateful I am that I had the opportunity to work at the office for the time that I did. The memories that I made there, and with him, are ones that I will always cherish. I consider myself very blessed and privileged to have had such a great man in my life and to be able to call him my uncle makes me beyond lucky. I will miss him so much and never forget the things he taught me. Love you Uncle Pete.

Megan Chavez - July 09, 2013 at 11:27 AM

DC

“ Michael and Meredith, I can't express to you how much I am going to miss your Dad. As Amanda said earlier, the family gatherings will never be the same without him. Sandy, Megan, Matt and me will be eternally grateful for the time we spent with him last Tuesday. While we may have lost an irreplaceable member of our family, we also lost a really good man....

David E. Chavez

David E Chavez - July 09, 2013 at 10:05 AM

JC

“ Peter brought humor and joy to events as well as his legal expertise. He shared his gifts and was appreciated very much. Thanks for the wine!
John J. Cordova

John J. Cordova - July 09, 2013 at 09:58 AM

SU

“ *Mr. Johnstone was such a fine attorney and man. I send my condolences to his family. He will greatly missed.*

Susy - July 09, 2013 at 09:46 AM

LE

“ *Pete was a wonderful man and a kind and wise mentor to younger attorneys. I knew him since before I received my bar license over 21 years ago and consider myself honored to have known him. Linda Ellison*

Linda L. Ellison - July 09, 2013 at 09:07 AM

JG

“ *Pete was a dear friend in the family law community to bench, bar and families in the system. He will be greatly missed. Joyce Gentry*

Joyce Gentry - July 09, 2013 at 08:38 AM

MF

“ *Melodie Fitch...I will never forget this wonderful man. He helped me through a lot of heart ache in my life. Not only was he one of my bosses at Keleher & Mcloud but also a great friend. You will be greatly missed by a lot of people. My deepest condolences to the family and Linda & Michelle. Love you.*

Melodie Fitch - July 08, 2013 at 10:34 PM

AC

“ *Family gatherings with our crazy clan just won't be the same without your jovial laugh and entertaining stories. Thank you for always being so kind. You had a way of lighting up a room with your presence, and I know your spirit will do the same. You will be missed. Love you.*

Amanda Chavez - July 08, 2013 at 10:02 PM

MB

“ *I am very saddened to hear about Peter's passing. He was a very fine man. Condolences to Meredith and the family.*
Monica Baca

monica baca - July 08, 2013 at 09:53 PM

LR

“ *Thoughts and prayers go out to the whole Johnstone family. Rest in peace, Peter.*

Larry Ryan - July 08, 2013 at 09:08 PM

RU

I was so saddened to hear of the passing of Peter. As others have spoken, he was a calm, supportive attorney with a keen intelligence and sharp wit! I will always remember him with gratefulness and a smile.

Ruby - July 11, 2013 at 09:32 AM

BC

Pete Johnstone had that unique blend of intelligence, judgment and sense of humor that made him a great lawyer enabling him to help so many over the years. He was a joy to be around and a credit to his family and his profession. How nice it must be for his family to know that they shared their life with such a wonderful person. Bill Carpenter

Bill Carpenter - July 11, 2013 at 06:09 PM