



Demos Panayi Hadjiyanis

December 1, 1923 - April 9, 2025

Demos P. Hadjiyanis, 101, passed away on April 9, 2025, surrounded by his loving family. Born in Syngراسis, Cyprus, on December 1, 1923, Demos was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, professor, and friend to many. He lived with integrity and purpose, always striving to make the world better through respect, thoughtfulness, honesty, kindness, and educated logic.

Raised on his family farm, Demos moved to the United States in 1949 to pursue his education, ultimately earning a PhD in Economics from the University of Minnesota in 1967. His passion for learning led him to a lifelong career in academia. He began teaching at St. Olaf College, before joining the University of St. Thomas, where he taught for 25 years until his retirement in 1990, later receiving the title of Professor Emeritus.

Demos and his adoring Eugenia shared a deep and abiding love - one he described as beginning "from the moment he met her." Together, they welcomed every person they encountered with warmth and "philoxenia" (hospitality). He mentored his family with wisdom, humor, and the simple joys of breakfast. His patience and care also flourished in his love of gardening.

A devout member of St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, Demos fostered education, community service, and his Greek Cypriot heritage through his involvement in AHEPA, where he helped establish a Greek Language School

and a scholarship fund. As a lifelong learner and firmly believing that "An education is the lightest thing you can carry on your back-you can take it anywhere," he also supported and led students in study abroad programs.

Thoughtful and patient, Demos put great care into every word he spoke, prayer he led, toast he gave, and card or poem he wrote. He blessed every gathering with love, joy, and his passion for Greek and ballroom dancing. His warmth and wisdom made everyone feel like family.

Demos is survived by his beloved wife of 66 years, Eugenia; his loving children, Katherine (Nick), Vicky (Joe), and George (Susan); and his cherished grandchildren, Gina, Theodore (Katie), Nico, Marina, Stella, Eva, and Maria. He was preceded in death by his parents and his seven siblings.

Thank you to all friends and family for their love, and to Demos' caregiver, Maria, and Parkshore staff for their extraordinary care and devotion.

We will forever miss his love, humor, and gracious spirit. May his memory be eternal.

Visitation 4:30-7pm Wednesday April 23rd with 6:30pm Trisagion Service at Washburn-McReavy Edina Chapel, 5000 West 50th St. Edina. Funeral Service 11:00am Thursday, April 24th at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Ave. South, Minneapolis. A luncheon will follow the burial. Private Interment Lakewood Cemetery. Memorials are preferred to St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church or AHEPA Scholarship Education DPH Endowment Fund

Cemetery Details

Lakewood Cemetery (Minneapolis)

3600 Hennepin Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 23. 4:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Prayer Service

APR 23. 6:30 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436

Funeral Service

APR 24. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church
3450 Irving Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55408

Tribute Wall

JS

“ Vicky and family, our sympathies to you and your entire family. Prayers for the Peace that passes all understanding would be evident in and through you as you mourn the passing of your father.
John Schlundt

John Schlundt - May 11, 2025 at 09:52 PM

NF

“ Dear Vicky and family, my sincere condolences on your father's passing. Although I did not have him as a professor, I know Dr. Hadjiyanis strongly influenced the culture of the economics department. What great memories of my classmates, professors and classes! I pray that your lifetime of memories will be blessing to you. Best regards, Nora Byrne Fitzpatrick

Nora B Fitzpatrick - April 25, 2025 at 08:57 AM

DS

“ Jim and I are so sorry we are not able to attend Demos' funeral. Jim and Demos were colleagues in the Economics department and overlapped for several years before Demos retired. We loved chatting with Demos and Eugenia at University of St. Thomas events and everyone was always so excited that they were there. We would always talk about their time in Northfield and at St. Olaf College since Jim and I live there and I work there. Our deepest condolences.

Diane Strom and Jim Vincent



Diane Strom - April 24, 2025 at 11:28 AM

MB

“ We will always remember Demos as today's Wise Man from the East (Cyprus)!
Not only well educated, but with abundant common sense.
He was a man ahead of his time with all the qualities of a real Christian, father, grand-father and friend.
He is an example to follow and an inspiration to all of us, who new him well.

«Αιωνία του η μνήμη»

Mike, Toni, and Maria Bazakos

Michael E Bazakos - April 22, 2025 at 07:00 PM

LL

“ I was deeply saddened to hear of Mr. Hadjiyanis passing. In the 3 years I lived in Minneapolis, I had the honor to volunteer in the Greek Language school he had established, in the days when it was run by his children, Vicky and George.
I will always remember him as an exceptional gentleman, an inspiring personality with a kind and loving heart.
The Greek community of Minneapolis and St. Mary's parish have lost an invaluable member.
My thoughts are with his beloved wife Eugenia, his children Kathy, George and my dear friend Vicky, and their families.
May his soul rest in peace and his memory be eternal.

Lydia Lekka - April 22, 2025 at 09:18 AM

AD

“ On behalf of the AHEPA D-14 Past District Governors, our Sencere Condolences to the family on the departure of our beloved brother Demos. He served our Organization with a passion of a true Cypriot / Hellen, participating at all functions and events, providing us with his kind guidance and wisdom. The establishment of a scholarship fund under the Demos and Eugenia name is providing students with funds and encouragement on their study's needs. Your kind personality will be greatly missed. May your Memory be Eternal our brother. Αίωνια η Μνημη.



AHEPA PDG D-14 - April 17, 2025 at 02:47 PM

FJ

“ I join many other St. Thomas grads and one-time students in Dr. Hadjiyanis' economics classes in expressing my condolences. And also my gratitude for this good man having been in my life.

Like Rachel Wobschall (U.S.T./1981), I too benefited from his good cheer and leadership during our amazing 1980 S.P.A.N. summer in Malta. He's an example of how one person can make such a profound difference in others' lives.

Blessings to his beloved family.

Blessings to Cyprus, his beloved homeland before making the U.S. his new home.

Blessings to his beloved Greek Orthodox Church.

Fr. Paul Jarvis, Saint Paul, MN

Fr. Paul Jarvis - April 14, 2025 at 03:05 PM

KB

Thank you, Fr. Paul, for your reflection and thoughtful comments. I, too, have fond memories of that trip and was blessed to have him as not just an amazing father but as a teacher.

Katherine Boosalis - April 18, 2025 at 10:23 AM

RW

“ My sincere sympathy on the passing of our beloved Demos! What wonderful memories we had of the summer of 1980 in Malta and then again at the many events we attended together when I returned to UST as the director of alumni and constituent relations. My love and prayers are with you!

Rachel Wobschall - April 14, 2025 at 12:30 PM

KB

Rachel, thank you so much for remembering my father and for your kind words. I am grateful that he was able to teach at St. Thomas for many years - teaching was his life! May his memory be eternal.

Katherine Boosalis - April 18, 2025 at 10:25 AM