



Yiannis John Kaznessis

May 23, 1971 - April 7, 2024

"The pursuit of happiness can be realized when we make today better than yesterday for all we love."

- Yiannis Kaznessis

Yiannis Kaznessis made each and every day better than the day before with his pure love and tenacity to always find the good in the bad. Yiannis was an icon of strength, dignity, love, and profound brilliance, and was an exemplary father, husband, and scholar.

Yiannis raised two remarkable children with his beloved wife Elaine Kaznessis: Evie Kaznessis and Serafeim Kaznessis, who will each forever be a half of their father, and together will symbolize a whole of their father.

Everyone fortunate enough to meet Yiannis has been touched by his optimism, teachings, captivating stories, and handsome smile. His contributions as a distinguished scientist, teacher, innovator, and researcher will last an eternity.

Yiannis Kaznessis was born May 23, 1971, in Athens, Greece to his late mother and father, Paraskevi and Nikolaos Kaznessis. He grew up biking around the streets of Athens, studying into the night for college entrance exams, discussing deep philosophical truths with his cousins, playing soccer

with friends at the local town square, and enjoying a double-breaded souvlaki pita.

At the age of 18, Yiannis Kaznessis was accepted into one of the top chemical engineering programs in Greece, the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki. At the Aristotle University in Thessaloniki, it became evident that Yiannis would grow to leave a great mark on mankind.

In 1994, Yiannis Kaznessis was honored with the Fulbright Award, and at just the young age of 23, Yiannis Kaznessis immigrated to the United States in the pursuit of knowledge for a PhD in chemical engineering at the University of Notre Dame. Throughout Yiannis' studies, he not only was shaped into a distinguished scientist but inspired everyone he encountered with his admirable work ethic and selfless spirit.

Only days after arriving at Notre Dame, Yiannis met the love of his life and eternal soulmate Elaine Kaznessis, an undergraduate student at St. Mary's College. The couple first met at the Greek-American Club 30 years ago. Together they are the main characters of one of the greatest love stories of all time.

Dr. Kaznessis graduated from the University of Notre Dame in 1999 with a doctorate in chemical engineering. Yiannis thereafter completed postdoctoral research with Pfizer Global R&D and the University of Michigan.

In 2001, following Dr. and Mrs. Kaznessis' marriage, Yiannis joined the Department of Chemical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Minnesota, enhancing the program's elite status. Yiannis Kaznessis was tenured and promoted to full professor in 2011. Along with his professorial position at the University, Yiannis established and directed the Bioinformatics Summer Institute and served as Director of Graduate Studies.

Dr. Kaznessis trained and mentored 35 PhD, M.S., and postdoctoral students. Additionally, he authored more than 110 refereed groundbreaking papers and the textbook Statistical Thermodynamics and Stochastic Kinetics.

Yiannis was the recipient of many honors, a handful of these awards include the Fulbright Award, the IBM Young Faculty Award, the National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award, and the S.V. Sotirchos Award, and was a Visiting Scholar at the Isaac Newton Institute of Mathematics, University of Cambridge.

In 2003 Yiannis' daughter, Evie Kaznessis, was born. Additionally, in 2006, Yiannis' son, Serafeim Nikolaos Kaznessis, was born.

"I am a perpetual student, enjoying continuous intellectual growth that benefits mankind."

- Yiannis Kaznessis

Yiannis founded General Probiotics in 2018 and took on the role of the company's Chief Executive Officer. At General Probiotics, Yianni directed a team of scientists and engineers in research and development of recombinant live biotherapeutics to fight bacterial infections in livestock and secure safe food production.

In 2021, Yiannis launched AgThera to commercialize FDA-registered live therapeutics and revolutionize the way we treat our livestock.

Some of Yiannis' daily glimmers were guiding his core four on explorations of the world, bike rides through the trails of the Twin Cities, coaching Evie in Greek from the basketball sideline, debating emerging political questions with

Serafeim, and warm morning hugs and coffee with Elaine.

While Yiannis healed from colon cancer, he also heroically contributed to cancer research and vaccine discovery with a partnership with the very same hospital that cared for him, the Mayo Clinic.

With Elaine, Evie, and Serafeim in his embrace, Yiannis peacefully rested on April 7, 2024. His teachings, humor, strength, love, and memory will be eternal. Our Superman, Yiannis Kaznessis.

ΚΡΕΙΤΤΩ ΠΟΙΕΙΝ - make today better than yesterday

Yiannis is deeply loved and survived by his wife, children, sister, father-in-law, sister-in-law and brothers-in-law, nieces and nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles, Godchildren, Koumbari, and many other close friends and family.

On Monday, April 22, 2024, a Visitation will be held at 12:00pm cst, followed by a Funeral Service at 1:00pm at St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church, 3450 Irving Avenue S., Minneapolis, Minnesota. A Makaria, a celebration of life meal and gathering, will immediately follow at roughly 2:30pm in the St. Mary's Greek Orthodox Church Great Hall and will likely go into the early evening.

A family burial will take place in Indiana along with a memorial service in Greece at a later date still to be determined.

As the family finds ways to honor Yiannis' life and legacy, in lieu of flowers, if found helpful, dear friends have set up a gofundme memorial fund (<https://gofund.me/1784d299>) for ease in sending contributions.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR **22**. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (CT)

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

Church Service

APR **22**. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

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

Reception

APR **22**. 2:30 PM - 6:00 PM (CT)

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

Tribute Wall



“ *My belated condolences to Yiannis's family - an amazing scientist, but most of all, a good man with a heart of gold. He will be greatly missed.* ”

Tina Theou - July 07, 2025 at 03:56 PM



“ *Αγαπημένε μας Γιάννη, αυτή τη φορά έφυγες για το πιο μεγάλο ταξίδι, χωρίς να μας χαιρετίσεις. Ας είναι παιδικέ μου φίλε, ήσουν μακριά.* ”

Σε θυμάμαι, πρωτοετή, όλο χαρά να ξεκινάς για το πολυτεχνείο στη Θεσσαλονίκη και μετά για τις ΗΠΑ, όπου δημιουργήσες μία υπέροχη νέα οικογένεια και μία λαμπρή καριέρα, προϊόν αποτελέσματος σκληρής δουλειάς, σταθερού χαρακτήρα αλλά και ξεχωριστής ευφυΐας.

Συνδύαζες πάντα αυτά μαζί έτσι όλοι σε καμαρώναμε, από μικρά, από τότε που παίζαμε ποδήλατα και μήλα εκεί στην παλιά γειτονιά στην Ηλιούπολη, στις αταξίες με τον κ. Καρλή και τον κ. Γιαννούλη στο δημοτικό σχολείο και αργότερα στις μεγάλες αγωνίες για το μέλλον, πανελλήνιες, βαθμοί..

Γιάννη μου, πολύ στεναχωρήθηκα που δε θα σε ξαναδώ ποτέ, που δε θα μάθω τα νέα σου.

Εκεί που είσαι, φίλα μου την αγαπητή μας Βούλα και πες της ότι δεν την ξεχνάμε ποτέ, όπως δε θα ξεχάσουμε ούτε εσένα.

Σε αφήνω τώρα γιατί τα δακρυα μου με εμποδίζουν να συνεχίσω.

Υ.γ. Στην καλή σου σύζυγο και στα παιδιά σου εύχομαι η μνήμη σου να είναι πάντα βάλσαμο για τις καρδιές τους.



Despoina Patsa - October 02, 2024 at 03:12 PM

“ Κοιτάω αυτό το νέο μπροστά μου ανήμπορη να το επεξεργαστώ και να το δεχτώ. Να ελπίζω σε μια φάρσα, σε ένα λάθος...αλλά όπως εμφαντικά δήλωνες την παρουσία σου, έζησες δυνατά τη ζωή σου, δεν θα μπορούσες να αρκεστείς στο μέτριο, στο συνηθισμένο. Ένας άνθρωπος που καμαρώναμε, που μέσα από σένα νιώθαμε όλοι περήφανοι που κατάφερες να φτάσεις σε κορυφές που μόνο οι πολύ ολοκληρωμένοι άνθρωποι φτάνουν και εσύ ήσουν ένας απ' αυτούς τους εκλεκτούς. Ήσουν ένας άνθρωπος που το αποτύπωμα του έχει μείνει σε όλους μας, στον καθένα με το δικό του μοναδικό τρόπο, γιατί είχες το χάρισμα να μπορείς να προσφέρεις, να ακουμπάς βαθιά και ολοκληρωτικά αυτούς που είχες δίπλα σου. Ένα εξαιρετικό μυαλό, ένα παιδί μάλαμα, ένας άνθρωπος που επηρέασε την ανθρωπότητα, τι άλλο πραγματικά θα μπορούσες να κάνεις; Αυτό που μας δίνει τη δύναμη να σκεφτόμαστε τη ζωή χωρίς εσένα, είναι η βαθιά πίστη μου ότι οι άνθρωποι ποτέ δεν φεύγουν από κοντά μας. Ειδικά αυτοί που το ειδικό τους βάρος είναι τεράστιο, φροντίζουν να εμφανίζονται στο σωστό χρόνο και τρόπο. Για εσάς, τα παιδιά του και τη γυναίκα της ζωής του, να έχετε τη βεβαιότητα ότι θα είναι εκεί παρών σε κάθε περίπτωση της ζωής σας, στις αποφάσεις που παίρνετε, την ηθική που έχετε διαμορφώσει, τις επιλογές που θα κάνετε. Ο Γιάννης έχει αφήσει μια μεγάλη παρακαταθήκη που τον ολοκλήρωσε ως άνθρωπο, τα δύο εξαιρετα δημιουργήματά του, εσάς τα παιδιά του και ζει μέσα από σας πλέον. Συνεχίστε με την ίδια αξιοπρεπή στάση τη ζωή σας και θα τον κάνετε να απολαμβάνει ήρεμος και ευτυχισμένος τη νέα του διάσταση. Είναι πάντα δίπλα σας!





“ Ξέρεις ρε Γιάννη τι πιστεύω; Δε γίνεται αυτά τα νέα να φτάσουν στην Ελλάδα! Τόσος καιρός πέρασε για να το μάθουμε εδώ κάποιοι φίλοι σου, που σε αγαπούν τόσο πολύ. Σε θαύμαζα Γιάννη μου. Αν υπήρχε κάτι ιδιαίτερο να σκεφτεί κανείς σε άνθρωπο, ναι Γιάννη ήσουν εσύ. Ήμουν τυχερός που σε η γνώρισα και μοιραστήκαμε τόσα πολλά σε τόσο τρυφερή ηλικία. Ο δρόμος που διάλεξες γεμάτος επιτυχίες και αναγνώριση. Περήφανος νέος υπήρξες, περηφάνια σκόρπιζες γύρω σου. Αφήνω εδώ αυτές τις λέξεις ταπεινά, καθώς νιώθω φτωχό το λεξιλόγιό μου. Βλέπεις και εκεί, στην έκφραση του γραπτού λόγου, ήσουν καλύτερος όλων. Πρόλαβες, να κάνεις όσα άλλοι δε θα κάνουμε ποτέ Γιάννη. Σίγουρα τα παιδιά σου και η γυναίκα που τόσο σε λάτρεψε, θα νιώθουν περήφανοι για σένα. Φίλε μου καλό ταξίδι στου αρχαίου άσματος τον αμπελώνα...



Panagiotis Goutos - October 01, 2024 at 07:59 AM



αρχαίου

Panagiotis Goutos - December 04, 2024 at 04:37 PM

IK

“ Με τον Γιάννη είμαστε συμφοιτητές. Βρεθήκαμε πολλές φορές στην Αμερική σε συνέδρια. Με επισκέφτηκε στη Minnesota και εγώ στο Notre Dame. Είχα τη χαρά να παρακολουθήσω από κοντά τη διασικασία συνεντεύξεων του στη Minnesota. Μόλις είχα γυρίσει από την Intel και ετοίμαζα βαλίτσες για Ελλάδα. Ο Γιάννης ετοιμαζόταν να έρθει Minnesota. Τελευταία τον είδα όταν το το Τμήμα μας στο ΑΠΘ τον τίμησε. Ήπιαμε καφέ, θυμηθήκαμε τα παλιά. Ήταν πάντα ένα βήμα μπροστά στην καριέρα, στη ζωή και τελικά και στο τελευταίο ταξίδι. Τα θερμά μου συλλυπητήρια στην οικογένειά του. Θα τον θυμόμαστε για το χαμόγελο και τον δυναμισμό του από τον οποίο εύχομαι η οικογένειά του να πάρνει δύναμη. Γιάννης Καραπαναγιώτης

I. Karapanagiotis - May 05, 2024 at 03:02 AM

AS

“ My sincerest condolences to Elaine and the kids. I was deeply saddened to hear the news of Yiannis' passing. I have not seen them since we were all in South Bend. However, I have many fond memories with Elaine and Yiannis from that time. Yiannis and I were in grad school at Notre Dame together. And I loved how Yiannis had a way of bringing a calm to situations. He was always kind, thoughtful, and obviously smart. I'm so sorry for the family.

Anita Schwendt - April 27, 2024 at 02:08 PM

ΜΚ

“ Αγαπημένοι μας Ελένη, Εύη και Σεραφείμ αυτές τις δύσκολες μέρες ευχόμαστε να βρείτε τη δύναμη να αντιμετωπίσετε τη μεγάλη απώλεια του Γιάννη. Να είστε τόσο δυνατοί, όσο ήταν και κείνος σε όλη του τη ζωή και κυρίως στην τελευταία περιπέτεια με την υγεία του. Τον αγαπούσαμε, τον εκτιμούσαμε, τον θαυμάζαμε. Η ζωή του ήταν ένα φωτεινό παράδειγμα για όλους μας. Οι σκέψεις μας και η αγάπη μας θα είναι πάντα κοντά σας. Μαρίνα, Ντίνος, Μαρία και Θωμάς.

Marina Kaznesi - April 27, 2024 at 11:50 AM



“ Στη μνήμη του αδελφού της φίλης μας, ενός ανθρώπου που εφαρμόζε σε όλη του τη ζωή το «κρείττω ποιείν». Λίνα, Σία, Γιάννα, Σίσσυ, Αλέκα, Γιώτα, Μαίρη, Ελένη.

Sia Tzalla - April 26, 2024 at 05:25 AM



Τα θερμότερα συλληπητήρια μας για την απώλεια του αγαπημένου της Αδελφού Γιάννη, στην παλιά μας φίλη Αγγέλα Καζνέση, Οι παιδικοί της φίλοι της από την Ηλιούπολη, Νίκος και Δέσποινα Πατσαβού.

Despoina Patsa - October 03, 2024 at 02:04 PM

MS

“ Είμαστε πολύ λυπημενοι για τον άδικο χαμό του αγαπημένου μας Γιάννη για το γρήγορο πέρασμα από τη ζωή. Για εμάς είναι ζωντανός στις ψυχές μας. Ήρθε στη Θεσσαλονίκη δεκαοκταχρονο παιδί συνεσταλμενος να σπουδάσει στο τμήμα Χημικών Μηχανικών της Πολυτεχνική Σχολής της πόλης μας. Ολοκλήρωσε τις σπουδές του με ευκολία και όχι μόνο. Το μονάκριβο παιδί της αγαπημένης Βούλας πήρε άριστες συστατικές επιστολές από τους καθηγητές του για περαιτέρω σπουδές στην Αμερική. Χρόνια μετά το 2010 τιμήθηκε από την Ένωση Χημικών Ελλάδας ως ο καλύτερος επιστήμονας κάτω των 40 ετών. Είμαστε πολύ υπερήφανοι που είναι φίλος μας. Η μέρα της βράβευσης είναι βαθιά χαραγμένη στην καρδιά μας. Στελνουμε τα θερμά μας συλλυπητήρια στην οικογένεια του στην Αμερική, στην αγαπημένη αδερφή του και σε όλους τους συγγενείς και φίλους. Μαρια-Γιώργος Φιλιππίδης.

Maria simou - April 24, 2024 at 12:02 PM

KM

“ Τίποτα δεν είναι πιο επίπονο από το χαμό ενός αγαπημένου ανθρώπου. Σήμερα και πάντα, οι αναμνήσεις του αγαπημένου σας προσώπου θα σας προσφέρουν ειρήνη, αγαλλίαση και δύναμη. Το σώμα μόνο φθείρεται, η ψυχή είναι αθάνατη. Θα θυμόμαστε πάντα τη δύναμη της ψυχής του. Συμμερίζομαι πραγματικά την απώλειά σας. Θα τον θυμόμαστε πάντα. Είθε η ψυχή του να αναπαυθεί εν ειρήνη.

Katerina martakou - April 22, 2024 at 05:05 PM

VI

“ We are very sorry to hear the sad news. Our deepest sympathies to Elaine, the children and the extended family. I remember Yiannis warmly from our time at Notre Dame, and the fun and candid conversations we had in our research lab group. And also with Elaine and Yiannis in the evenings and weekends at our student get-togethers. I admired his joy for life and his keen interest in science, math and computation. I remember his vivacious laugh, and his love for all things Greek.

Our thoughts and prayers are with you all, that God give you the strength and courage to cope and recover from the grief and loss of someone so dear and special.

With heartfelt condolences to all of you. May his soul rest in peace.

Much love,

Vinaya and Samir Kapoor

Vinaya - April 21, 2024 at 01:47 AM

ΚΛ

“ Η άνιση και επώδυνη μάχη του Γιάννη με τον καρκίνο και ο πρόωρος θάνατός του αποδεικνύουν για μια ακόμη φορά πόσο άδίκη και τραγική είναι η ζωή. Τα λουλούδια της Άνοιξης κατέβασαν το κεφάλι τους και τα πουλιά σταμάτησαν να κελαηδούν για να τον αποχαιρετήσουν όταν έφευγε για το τελευταίο ταξίδι του. Τα είδα βουρκωμένα γιατί χάλασε η ωραία φωλιά που είχε κάνει με την οικογένειά του. Τουλάχιστον δεν πονούσε πια...Αγάπησε και αγαπήθηκε πολύ, η αγάπη ουδέποτε εκπίπτει. Συλλυπητήρια στην γυναίκα του, στα παιδιά του, στην αδελφή του Αγγελική, στους συγγενείς και στους φίλους του.

Καλυψώ Λατίνου - April 20, 2024 at 06:12 PM

SK

“ *Very sorry to hear the sad news. I have fond memories of Yiannis from our days at Notre Dame and all the get togethers we had. My deepest condolences to the family.*
- Samir

Samir Kapoor - April 20, 2024 at 11:17 AM

ΦΜ

“ *Αγαπημένοι μας Ελένη, Εύη και Σεραφείμ! Δεν έχουμε λόγια να σας πούμε. Θυμούμαστε τις όμορφες στιγμές που ζήσαμε μαζί σας, μαζί με τον Γιάννη μας και ο πόνος της απώλειας γίνεται δυσβάστακτος. Ευχόμαστε να έχετε δύναμη να το αντιμετωπίσετε. Είμαστε στο πλευρό σας κάθε ώρα και κάθε στιγμή. Τον Γιάννη τον ξέραμε από την ώρα που γεννήθηκε. Παρακολουθούσαμε με χαρά και υπερηφάνεια τη πορεία του τόσο στον επιστημονικό και επαγγελματικό τομέα όσο και στην δημιουργία μιας υπέροχης οικογένειας. Ας μείνει η μνήμη του βαθιά και ανεξίτηλα μέσα στις καρδιές μας.*
ΦΩΤΗΣ ΕΛΕΝΗ

ΦΩΤΗΣ ΜΑΡΤΑΚΟΣ - April 19, 2024 at 12:40 PM

TC

“ *Elaine and Evie, what a great tribute to a smart, interesting man. I only had the pleasure of knowing him for one season, but I've looked back fondly at the fun times we had up in Duluth. You'll be in our thoughts and prayers.*

Tim Caulfield - April 18, 2024 at 11:20 PM

NB

“What a beautiful testimony of such an amazing friend to all, husband, father, researcher, leader, and community and church contributor. And you, Elaine, have been such a spiritual role model in your amazing love and strength as you helped Yianni fight cancer for all these years. He pushed through fighting cancer for so long thanks to being able to lean on you and let your love continue to grow together. Love you all so much. We met at church so many years ago both grieving losing our mom’s and now I’m so sorry that so soon you have to grieve losing your life partner and your kids their special father. But he is still with us, watching over you all. As my mom said on her final breaths, “forever.”

Nicole Brilakis - April 18, 2024 at 10:44 PM

DC

“Helen, my heart weighs so heavy for you and your kids. Heaven has gained an amazing man. Praying for your peace and comfort.

Dayna (Ortiz) Chilcote - April 18, 2024 at 07:37 PM

LF

“Elaine, Evie, and Seraphim - I'm so sorry for your loss. Sending my love and prayers. What a beautiful testimony - Yiannis left an amazing legacy. May the memories bring comfort and peace. Much love Lara Font

Lara Font - April 18, 2024 at 04:07 PM

SF

“ I didn't have the privilege of meeting Yiannis in person but it is as if i knew him because of the wonderful memories shared by Elaine. I feel a deep pain in my heart, sharing my deep condolences with the family. But think you are Lucky to have shared wonderful years with your soulmate, It Is your treasure. Count on me for whatever you need. Your spanish friend, Silvia

Silvia Folgado - April 18, 2024 at 12:15 PM

SS

“ Elaine & Family - I am so sorry for your profound loss. Sending you my deepest sympathy and prayers. Yiannis sounds like an amazing person, I wish I would have met him. I hope that your shared love and wonderful memories will bring you some light and comfort during this incredibly difficult time.

Sarah Suk - April 18, 2024 at 11:48 AM

ΓΧ

“ Πειράσθαι την υστέραν της προτέρας κρείπτω ποιείν , έως αν εν οδώ ώμεν επειδάν δ' επί πέρας έλθωμεν , ομαλώς ευφραίνεσθαι!
Να προσπαθούμε την επόμενη μέρα να την κάνουμε καλύτερη από την προηγούμενη, όσο βρισκόμαστε στο δρόμο της ζωής, . Και όταν φτάνουμε στο τέρμα, να ηρεμούμε με ευχαρίστηση.
(Η φράση από τον Επίκουρο η παρακαταθήκη του Γιάννη που εύχομαστε από καρδιάς να ενδυναμώνει την οικογένεια του). Με τις σκέψεις μας και την αγάπη μας .
Χρυσούλα Μάνος Κατερίνα

ΓΑΛΛΙΑΤΣΑΤΟΥ EMM. ΧΡΥΣΟΥΛΑ - April 18, 2024 at 10:42 AM

DP

“ Elaine and family, my deepest condolences. I am so sorry for your loss. He was such a wonderful man and made an incredible impact on all. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. I am here if you need anything. May his memory be eternal!

Diane Powers - April 18, 2024 at 09:22 AM

DA

“ Elaine and family, I am so very sorry for the loss of your beloved Yiannis. You are in my thoughts and prayers as you celebrate his amazing life. I hope that you find comfort and laughter in the amazing memories you have shared. I have no doubt he is looking upon the three of you with great pride. You are a truly inspiring friend and colleague. I am here for you if you need anything. -Diana Alger

Diana Alger - April 18, 2024 at 06:49 AM

CO

“ I had the privilege to meet Yannis in our early university years in Greece back in late 80s when we were both young and unaware of life. We spent a lot of time together as young students and had the same struggles and worries for our academic career and eventually we became best friends. He was the one who inspired me to pursue a post graduate course and actually we filled the applications together. I remember back in 94 when internet was not widely known he came one day and bragged that he had been given an email address from the university. Yannis was such a talented person and an inspiration, our long talks will never be forgotten. He was the kind of person that you knew he will achieve something great if he had more time.
I will sure miss him.
My thoughts are with Elaine and their children and I am sure he will be their lighthouse for ever. May God rest him in peace.

Christos Onassis - April 18, 2024 at 01:11 AM

JC

“ Words escape me. I was very sad to learn this news. Mr. K was a fantastic person. Elaine, Seraphim, Evie, I give you my deepest condolences and as always, I am sending you much love and many hugs. I love you all!

Jim Canelake - April 17, 2024 at 03:57 PM

LT

“ I had the pleasure of living next-door to Yianni for twenty-two years. My first memory was him sitting on the deck of his new house holding hands with Elaine. They were, and still are truly in love.

I will miss his big laugh and our animated political and philosophical discussions over cocktails in the back yard. We once discussed what was really important to us in life. Yianni said it was his work solving problems that really animated his life. Not many people feel that way about their work.

I remember how he loved the smell of the lilacs at the border, just coming into bloom now. My funniest memory of Yianni was being busted in his back yard digging up some wild sown jewelweed to transplant to my garden. I thought he was in Greece but didn't remember their house lights being on. Suddenly he looked at me out the window and I embarrassedly said "welcome back"! with a shovel in my hand. We both started laughing as I explained I was just taking a little plant. I remember his exact words: "don't worry Lisa, take as much as you want, you are golden." I will now think of Yianni every year when the jewelweed blooms.

We will continue to be here for Elaine, Evie and Serafeim and know they will all be together with Yianni again one day. Being the problem solver he is, I'm sure he will find a way to talk to them every day until they are all together again.

Lisa Taft - April 17, 2024 at 01:59 PM

PA

“ I am deeply saddened by this news. The obituary for Yiannis says volumes about the amazing and proficient person he was, may the fond memories of your time together bring you and the children peace, Elaine. May his soul rest in peace. My thoughts and prayers are with you, Evie, Serafeim and your extended family.

God bless and stay strong!
Praveen V A

PRAVEEN VASANTH ARULDOSS - April 17, 2024 at 10:54 AM

DH

“ We are at loss for words. This is terribly sad and shocking news. Yiannis was a wonderfully warm person with a brilliant mind. He will be sorely missed. Our deepest and most heartfelt condolences to Elaine and their children and their extended family.
Davide and Gosia Hill

Davide and Gosia Hill - April 17, 2024 at 09:59 AM

TM

“ We are so incredibly sad to know of Yiannis' death. Please know all of you are in our hearts, thoughts and prayers. He was truly a kind, wonderful man. Love to you all. Tracy and Ed Maginn

Tracy Maginn - April 17, 2024 at 08:52 AM

JL

Elaine and family, I am so very sorry for your loss. You all are in my thoughts and prayers. May his memory be eternal

Joanne LaValle - April 18, 2024 at 03:23 PM

MB

I was so sad to hear this news. What a horrible loss for your family. You have my deepest sympathy.

Mavis Busch - April 19, 2024 at 05:57 PM

AR

My cousin grew up in a family with modest means and was driven by the desire to make something out of his life in order to be helpful to his old and new families. His primary consideration was always the people he loved, not himself. He always wanted to give and to make his loved ones happy, that was his pleasure. He worked hard on his dreams, one step at a time, overcame adversity, and they materialized along the way. His loss is particularly felt as my story is similar to his, we had similar journeys, and we both had to experience deeply painful losses of loved ones along the way.

He leaves a great legacy behind. He raised two wonderful children that, although I did not have a chance to meet, I have heard a lot about from him. Evie and Serafeim, be strong, optimistic about life, and create your own bright future like your father did. Make the legacy of his character your beacon. Elaine, I hope you find peace and comfort in the love of those around you. The pain will ease with time and you have two wonderful children to love and feel Yannis' presence in them along the way. There will be happiness after the sadness.

Aris

Aris - April 22, 2024 at 08:49 PM