



Paul "Peter" Orvis Jr.

January 25, 1934 - October 15, 2024

Paul (known as Peter), age 90, passed away on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at Community Hospice and Palliative Care in St. Augustine, Florida.

Peter was born on January 25, 1934, in New York City to the late Eileen (Henry) and Paul W. Orvis II. He grew up in Scarsdale, NY, where he delivered newspapers by bicycle to most of the town's residents for many years...an early display of his lifelong entrepreneurial spirit. He attended Scarsdale High School until enrolling at Loomis Chaffee School in Windsor, Connecticut. At 17, he joined his family in Calcutta, India, where his father had been posted. His experiences there were colorful and varied. He wore a tuxedo almost every night and attended many parties. Peter's father decided he needed a more rigorous education and sent him to the Mt Hermon School in Darjeeling, India. He enjoyed watching the tea pickers and views of Mt. Everest, but not the school. Peter returned to the rigors of the Irish Christian Brothers in Calcutta and ended up at the University of Geneva Switzerland. There he founded a band in which he played the piano and accordion. Returning to the United States, he attended Middlebury College, where he was the Social Chairman and party planner at Alpha Tau Omega. He earned a BA in History and Geography.

Upon graduation from Middlebury, Peter joined New York-based Riegel Paper as a sales associate. He summered in Bay Head, NJ and it was there that he met Celia (CeCe) Crouse. They married in 1959 on October 31 (yes, Halloween) and were looking forward to celebrating their 65th wedding

anniversary this October 31st.

Peter and family moved to Wilton Connecticut in the mid-1960s. Always active in the community, he volunteered at the Wilton Playshop, Kiwanis Club, the Wilton Congregation Church, the Wilton Historical Society, and Norwalk Community College. His favorite was coaching Little League Baseball. Unlike some other teams' coaches, he made sure each player had a turn at bat. His favorite memory was when a special needs player, who had never before reached first base, hit a home run!

In 1969 he started a long, successful career in the alarm industry. Along with a partner, he opened Watchguard Corporation, and they built that company into one of the largest security firms in the Northeast. In 1978 the two parted ways and shortly thereafter Security Solutions Inc (SSI) was born. Son Jamie joined SSI in 1986 after college graduation (Middlebury) and soon managed the company, while Peter focused on the Central Communications, Inc. (CCI) call center which he had started in 1985. CCI was created to monitor the alarm systems from SSI and to answer calls for local businesses. Son Paul took on management roles at CCI for several years in the 1990s. Both companies flourished under family control until Peter retired from active day-to-day management of the businesses in 2000.

Throughout his entire career, Peter willingly volunteered his time for many industry causes and associations. He was an executive VP of the National Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (now ESA) in the 1970's and helped establish many industry initiatives and conferences. He was the founder of the Connecticut Burglar and Fire Alarm Association (Now CASIA) and became the executive director of the association soon after that. He gave tirelessly of his extensive industry and business knowledge to many up-and-coming alarm industry associates. Many of those professionals followed his path, built successful companies of their own, ascended the association ladders, and became industry leaders themselves. Peter was elected by his peers into the industry Hall of Fame and is recognized as an Alarm Industry Icon. He was also well regarded in the call center industry and was active in leadership

roles in both the Startel National Users Group (SNUG) and the Association of Teleservices International (ATSI), where he was recognized with the ATSI Hall of Fame Award in 2017.

Peter and Cece moved to Marsh Creek in St. Augustine, Florida in 2000 and lived there for many wonderful years. The final move was to Westminster St. Augustine in 2020, where Peter became chair of the Employee Appreciation Fund, which he ran successfully for three years. He was a thoughtful, loving man with a broad grin and a contagious laugh. He was a caring and engaged grandfather in support of his three grandchildren's varied interests and activities. Peter and Cece have always been supportive of the arts and many philanthropic endeavors. Free time was filled with much golf and world-wide travel.

Peter is survived by his wife of 64 years, Cece, sister Marlene Shahhein of Shelton, Connecticut, brother Jonathan P. Orvis of Camp Springs, Maryland, his sons Paul W. Orvis IV and his wife Dawn of Yarmouth Port, Massachusetts, and James D. Orvis and his wife Anne of Fairfield, Connecticut, granddaughter Amanda Orvis of Stamford, Connecticut, grandson Ryan Orvis of Norwalk, Connecticut, grandson Paul W. Orvis V and his wife Katie of Wilmington, Delaware and sister-in-law Catherine Orvis of Sterling Heights, Michigan. He was predeceased by his brother Woodson of Sterling Heights, Michigan, and sister-in-law Brenda Orvis of Camp Springs, Maryland.

Peter was the first of three generations of Camp Dudley campers. Camp Dudley's motto is "The Other Fellow First." Donations in the memory of Peter Orvis – Camper # 7200, can be made to Camp Dudley, Inc. and mailed to 126 Dudley Road, Westport, NY 12993. Contributions will be used to provide scholarships for underprivileged boys.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 23 at 11 am at Memorial Presbyterian Church, 36 Sevilla Street in St. Augustine. A reception will follow after the service.

A second memorial service will be held in Wilton, Connecticut in the spring of 2025.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

NOV **23**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Memorial Presbyterian Church
32 Sevilla Street
St. Augustine, FL 32084

Tribute Wall

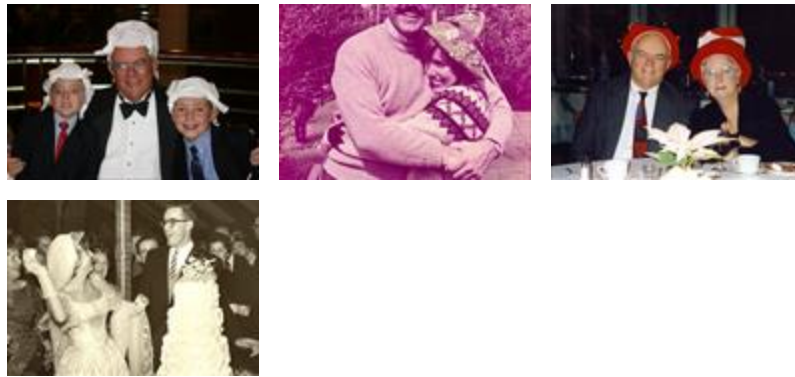
SA

“ To The Family of Peter Orvis: Many of meetings and many stories but I just want to say Paul will be missed. He was always willing to share and help any way he could. Sincere condolences to Cici, Paul and the family. Sandy

Sandy - November 13, 2024 at 02:25 PM

PA

“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



Paul - October 24, 2024 at 11:48 PM

WO

“ 1 file added to the album Tribute Wall



Wayne Osterling - October 24, 2024 at 07:59 AM

DL

“ *What a warm greeting I received from the Orvis family on my first visit to the USA from the UK in 1970. How trusting Peter & CeCe were, leaving me to look after the boys as their summer bunny girl, whilst they went on their European trip ! Since then continuous contact & communication over the years with the Orvis family has been an absolute pleasure. Treasured memories of Peter's humour, generosity, energy, genuine interest and enthusiasm. So glad to have known him. Kind thoughts as always*
Denise Lamb UK

Denise W Lamb - October 22, 2024 at 08:15 AM

AC

Peter was a tremendous entrepreneur and a mentor to many. We were all deeply saddened to hear of his passing at CCI/SSI. He touched the hearts of many and we truly looked forward to hearing his stories and ideas! He will be missed! Wishing CeCe my deepest sympathy, you are in my thoughts always.
Ann Cadin

Ann M Cadin - October 24, 2024 at 06:51 AM

MC

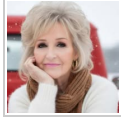
I love that picture of Peter: so typical with his ever-present smile and a twinkle in his eyes. I have many, many fond memories of Jack's and my getting together with Cece and Peter. We shared a lot of good times! The only time I saw Peter nonplussed was when we found a GIANT frog on the edge of our pool. Laughter came later, after the frog hopped away!
Mary Coogan, a roommate of Cece's at college.

Mary Coogan - October 25, 2024 at 12:43 PM

AG

Peter was one of my childhood "second" Dads. He always welcomed me, and all of us who were friends, to hang out, relax, visit, party and just be part of the Orvis family. His humor, kindness, generosity and openness were an ever-present part of my childhood and teen years. Bold wings, Peter. You've left a loving legacy behind in your sons, their families and all who've ever known you.

Amber Gray - October 31, 2024 at 11:36 PM



Pete was an industry icon to many of us. Seeing his genuine smile & getting a warm hug at conventions was something to look forward to. My parents loved & respected him & they had a great friendship that lasted for ages. The deepest sympathy for this loss.

June Corbett-Mc Farlin - November 01, 2024 at 02:56 AM

RS

Peter / you will be missed by all / my sincere condolences to Cece and the Orvis family / May you rest in eternal peace

Ray Shaw - November 01, 2024 at 03:06 PM

DL

Condolences to CeCe & family – Pete was very involved in everything he took up. He was a mentor to me during the early years of the SNUG BOARD in the 90's and continued to connect over the years with conferences. Pete was the IDEA man, always considering a better way to do things and I learned a lot from him.

Dan LHeureux - November 01, 2024 at 04:16 PM

MB

When I was on the SNUG board and was first nominated for President, I wasn't sure I was ready. I was in my early 20's, I'd only been in the industry a few years, and Peter Orvis specifically came to mind. I felt like "what insight or wisdom could I possibly bring to this group that somebody like Pete Orvis doesn't already know?"

I never said it out loud, but it's like he knew. He reached out to me at the next conference, before my "inauguration," and talked about how happy he'd been to see me get involved with the board and how glad he was I got the nomination. It's been nearly 20 years, now, but that vote of confidence really stuck with me. He was a savvy businessperson, a seemingly effortless leader, and a kind man; if he believed I had what it took, I felt like maybe I really did.

I'm so grateful I had the opportunity to know him, and my sincerest condolences to Cece and the rest of the Orvis family.

Matt Bogan - November 01, 2024 at 07:25 PM

SP

The Orvis family was always a pleasure to see at conferences and we had many conversations about improving our businesses, the equipment and our organizations over the years. I always looked forward to the big smile and a huge hug from Peter! He was definitive in his suggestions, and always had an eye to what more we could all do. Condolences to CeCe, Paul and the rest of the Orvis family on this loss. Sending love to all. Stacy Polinsky

Stacy Polinsky - November 02, 2024 at 06:28 PM

SG

I will remember Peter, as such a loving, kind, always ready for a party, friend. Peter, you were always ready to help out, Especially after my husband Bill passed. You were a very good friend to both of us and I treasure your friendship forever. Love to CeCe and all the Orvis family. With love, Suzanne Gamble

Suzanne Gamble - November 15, 2024 at 12:15 PM