



James J. Petrus

January 16, 2023

James J Petrus, 79, of Woodbridge, Virginia, passed away at Sentara Hospice on January 16, 2023, after a prolonged battle with Parkinson's Disease. He was born on June 11, 1943, to John and Francis (Frances) Petrus and raised by his stepmother Elizabeth (Fazekas) Petrus in Cleveland, Ohio. He married Sandra (Burns) Petrus on October 4, 1969, and came to Northern Virginia in 1971. Here he started a family and began a career in the Prince William County School System (PWCS) as an administrator and teacher of Sociology and US Government.

A resident of Woodbridge for 45 years, he was active in local politics and took an interest in history and especially the presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt. After 35 years of exploring the region with friends while shopping for antiques, looking for a good hoagie, a cold beer and bowl of ice cream he retired from PWCS. He will surely be remembered by his family and students for his good sense of humor.

He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He is survived by his beloved wife of 53 years, Sandra, his daughter Nicole her husband Bryan Kuskie their children Darin and Noelle of Clarksburg, MD, his son Matthew Petrus and his wife Ana Hernandez of San Diego, CA and his sister, Maryann Szbados of Euclid, OH.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to:

<https://give.michaeljfox.org/give/421686/#!/donation/checkout>

A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

Tribute Wall

JH

“ I’m sorry posting two years after Mr. Petrus passed away but I just saw this information while looking up former teachers. I wanted to say what a great teacher he was. It could not have been easy teaching us in the 70’s. He had a great sense of humor and my husband and I both remember him fondly. I think if we are still remembering him, many of his other students are as well. He was a great educator, I just wish I was a better student but I did come around and got my Masters. 😊 He would always call me by my last name, that cracked me up. I’m sorry for your loss.

Jan Harris - August 19, 2025 at 06:32 PM



“ Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of James J. Petrus.



February 02, 2023 at 02:04 PM

LP

“ Sorry to hear about Jim’s passing. We always enjoyed your visit to Cleveland and Jimmy’s talks and humor. Les and Barb Petrus

Les and Barb Petrus - January 27, 2023 at 03:23 PM

SO

“ My heartfelt condolences to Sandy and family in your loss. It's been many years, but I fondly remember your wedding day. So much has transpired in all the years since. It sounds like Jim made a true difference.

I know your every day will be different now. Relish the fond memories when you can and know that you are carried in the hearts of many.

Sandra L OConnor - January 27, 2023 at 02:24 PM

KS

“ Sending condolences to Sandy and family and appreciation for Jim's talent as an educator who had such a positive impact on his students.

Kathleen Seefeldt.

Kathleen Seefeldt - January 26, 2023 at 12:25 PM

AC

“ Dear Sandy and family, I just heard from Lois about Jim's passing, and am so sorry for the loss of your wonderful husband, loving father to your children and grandfather to your precious grandchildren. As I read the tributes already posted, I cannot help but smile and agree that Jim always had a bright, subtle, quick wit and easy sense of humor whenever I was in his company. I look forward to celebrating his life with you when the service is planned. My deepest condolences and prayers for you all as you begin to grieve the loss of Jim in your daily life.

Angela Carroll - January 26, 2023 at 09:59 AM

AB

“ Whenever we visited Jim and Sandy in Woodbridge it was like having our private guided history tour. As we visited historical sights Jim would share history and events related to the sights. And there are so many memories that we cherish of the family visiting our camp on the lake. Our family will miss him. Anne Burns.

Anne Burns - January 24, 2023 at 02:04 PM

JF

“ Jim was my government teacher in 1974. A great man a great mind and a wonderful sense of humor.



Jerry Foster - January 24, 2023 at 05:41 AM



“ Mrs. Fields 90 Nibblers Signature Tin Nut-Free was purchased for the family of James J. Petrus.



January 22, 2023 at 10:47 PM

DS

“ Jim was a wonderful neighbor to us as first time home owners. I truly enjoyed his sense of humor. I still have a picture of him that he framed and gifted to us one Christmas.

Donna Sisson - January 21, 2023 at 09:36 PM

SP

Thank you for sharing this. It brings us comfort to know he has made an impression on you. Check out Facebook page "50 years of WSHS". There is a tribute to Jim posted there.

Sandy Petrus - January 26, 2023 at 12:11 AM

BR

“ I let my son know that Mr. Petrus had passed away. I wanted to share what he had to say...

Mr Petrus was the best teacher I ever had! You could tell he truly cared about his kids, and what he was passing on to them. He pushed us all to think for ourselves and always challenge ourselves and to question everything! He pushed free thinking and informed discussion in his class. I made many friends in school because he allowed us to speak our minds on topics and actually talk it out amongst ourselves, finding common grounds to build off of.

Anyone who has known me through the years has heard me talk about him well after high school was done, and I even ran into him in Occoquan a few times...and he always took the time to talk with me, ask how I had been and what I was up to. And we would talk about times in class, like it had happened the day before!

Thank you Mr Petrus for everything you did for me and the others you taught and cared for! You will be remembered and missed greatly!

Bobby Ravinski - January 21, 2023 at 04:42 PM

JR

*“ Mr Petrus was the best teacher I ever had! He always encouraged us to think for ourselves and to just be ourselves. I always loved history, and his class just reinforced that for me! All the love to his family in this time, he will be remembered and missed greatly!
Thank you Mr Petrus for everything!*

jason Ravinski - January 21, 2023 at 04:41 PM

BR

“ *Mr. Petrus was my son Jason’s favorite teacher at WSHS. He always spoke of lessons learned in Mr. Petrus’ class. I remember him frequenting our antique market in Occoquan. My heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family.*
Bobby Ravinski

Bobby Ravinski - January 21, 2023 at 04:30 PM



“ *Blue Caribbean Bouquet was purchased for the family of James J. Petrus.*



January 21, 2023 at 11:05 AM



“ *Red Roses and White Carnations (Silk Cemetery Flowers) was purchased for the family of James J. Petrus.*



January 20, 2023 at 05:22 PM