



Albert Monroe Sweeney, Jr.

November 20, 1930 - February 3, 2023

Albert Monroe Sweeney, better known to his friends as "Pete," died from stroke-related complications on February 3, 2023.

Pete was born in Visalia on November 20, 1930 of parents Albert Monroe "Pete Senior" Sweeney and Alberta May "Bertie" Crilly. He was educated in local schools, graduating from Visalia Union High School as the Senior Class President in 1948. He attended College of the Sequoias from 1948 to 1950, after which he served in the United States Navy from 1951 to 1953, in the Public Relations Division at NAS Los Alamitos.

Upon completion of his naval service, Pete attended U.C.L.A. and California State College, San Jose, earning both his Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. He also earned his teaching credential and taught English at Redwood High School from 1955 to 1964. He thereafter taught at College of the Sequoias teaching English and English Literature, and is perhaps best remembered for his teaching role in the Music Department where he established the theater organ program and taught until his retirement in 1984.

He met his wife Shirley after an operetta rehearsal where she was in the chorus, and the couple was married in Las Vegas on July 29, 1955.

Pete learned to play the pipe organ at an early age. At age 15 he played the

instrumental at the Visalia Fox theater pre-show and during intermission. He would continue to play the organ for the rest of his life, occasionally accompanying silent movies at the Fox until 2019.

Pete is survived by his wife Shirley, his daughter Megan Sweeney and his son Kollen Sweeney. His daughter Shereen Sweeney predeceased him in 2017. He is also survived by two grandchildren, Jeremy Mangano and Kayden Sweeney.

Services have been entrusted to Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel. Memorial Tributes and condolences may be offered by logging onto www.salseranddillard.com.

Tribute Wall



“ *Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel created a Tribute Video in memory of Albert Monroe Sweeney, Jr.*



Salser & Dillard Funeral Chapel - March 01, 2023 at 05:03 PM

TC

WOW, what a trip down memory lane!! Some pics I had seen, but others are new - I love them all! You all gave him a very happy life!

Tracy Chard - March 01, 2023 at 07:41 PM

CP

“ *To have a Theatre organ program for credit, silent movies and concerts at COS was a pipe dream that came true for Pete Sweeney. I was the instructor to teach the classical, liturgical and theatre music on the Allen Theatre Organ for transfer classes. His love for music was contagious and never ending. He was my friend, colleague, office mate and mentor. My heartfelt sympathy to his beautiful family. I will miss him dearly, but his memory will remain forever.*

*Chaumonde Porterfield-Pyatt, Professor of Music
College of the Sequoias*

Chaumonde Porterfield-Pyatt - February 25, 2023 at 01:46 AM



“ *Celebration of Life 11am March 4, 2023 @Visalia First Presbyterian Church*

Meg Sweeney - February 23, 2023 at 12:29 AM



“ *He came by my house in Glenville after I had installed a Hazelton special which he played. He was a fine organist. I finally wound up with a five manual Allen which I would have loved to hear him play. Sad news, and I wish his family the best.*

Lewis Walton - February 19, 2023 at 10:24 PM



“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



Tracy Chard - February 19, 2023 at 09:27 PM

TC

“ Uncle Pete spent time listening to what people said, with his full attention, and gave responses that were always kind and full of interest. He loved to share jokes, with his dry humor, and remember funny things from the past. He was keenly interested in anything new, ready to have animated discussions about it! Listening to him play the organ was heaven! He met Bob Hope (there's a picture of them together), when he was in the Navy, and a host of other important people. He was class President in his senior year of high school. My mom (Shirley's sister), said Pete was always the "life of the party" when he was young! I'm glad he's my uncle, and I look forward to seeing him in heaven!

Tracy Chard - February 19, 2023 at 09:19 PM

TC

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Tracy Chard - February 18, 2023 at 07:38 PM

DB

“ I didn't know Pete well but Shirley is my cousin your life was well lived Pete rip stay strong Shirley love you

Dawna baker - February 18, 2023 at 02:24 PM

DS

“ *RIP Pete. There is no other friend that I have known longer. Our shared love of the organ is a memory that will last forever. Your musical gifts to Visalia are monumental. My sincere sympathy goes to you, Shirley, and your family and friends.*

Dave Schutt - February 17, 2023 at 02:53 AM