



Walter Pestrak

FEB 1, 1940 - APR 19, 2024



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Walter Pestrak

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Walter Pestrak Jr., architect, died on April 19, 2024, aged 84, in Tampa, Florida. He was born February 1st, 1940, in Warren, Ohio, to Walter Sr. and Dolores (Moore) Pestrak. He is survived by his wife Amelia, three children from his first marriage, Alexander, Gabe, and Zachary, and four grandchildren: Zachary, Oscar, Rafael, Tristan and Sebastian. Walter also embraced his step children Alvin and Irene as part of his family. He also leaves behind his brothers Tom Pestrak and Jim Pestrak, his brother-in-law, and his great-grandchild Dylan. He also leaves behind his sisters, and his wife, who he loved and who he missed.

Walter grew up in Warren, Ohio. His father was a welder turned politician, serving eventually as Mayor of Warren, where he hosted John F. Kennedy's campaign. For a few years the family lived a more rural life in Mecca, Ohio, where Walter enjoyed fishing with his brother Jack on Mosquito Lake, but he grew up with the optimism of mid 1950's America. In 1963 Walter graduated with a degree in architecture from Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland. Both the university and the museums of University Circle impressed him and encouraged a broadening of his thought. Walter enjoyed many nights of music, a passion shared by his brother Jack. He briefly tried his hand at the vibraphone while in university, but he always loved the piano, and practicing new pieces.

While in Cleveland Walter met Rosa Maria Duncan, an art student from Toronto, Canada. They were married in 1964, and moved to New York, where he worked for Merrill Lynch, and then amongst the pre-eminent modern architecture firms in the country. In Manhattan Walter and Rosa Maria were introduced to the influence of Frank Lloyd Wright on their lives. After a few years they moved to an early 18th century former inn in Piermont, NY, and then to 4 acres of idyllic woodland in their first house, for his young family. He soon put out his shingle as a country architect, designing houses in the landscape, often perched dramatically on hillsides. He was friends with many of his clients, and also enjoyed the company of craftsmen and artisans. In 1984, seeking the possibilities that a city can offer, he worked for several firms, eventually becoming Director of Robbie, Young+Wright Architects. Always drawn to artists, he became a friend of the dancer Rob Desrosier Dance Theater. In 1991 Walter moved to Hong Kong for work, starting his firm Asia Pacific Designs and eventually becoming Architect for Club across the border in China. He loved the international energy of Hong Kong, where people were eager to meet, talk, and entertain ideas, and he found it endlessly interesting.

In 1998 Walter moved to Florida in part to help care for his mother, and in 2000 he married Amelia Manansala, whom he met in Hong Kong. They moved to Florida, and Walter loved joining his brothers Jack and Tom (and sometimes Jim as well) at the amateur car races in Sebring every year, as much for the excitement as for the camaraderie. He worked for several firms in

Tampa, completing a street car terminal among other projects, eventually working for the University of South Florida, where he managed the construction of the building in downtown Tampa and the Patel Center for Global Solutions on the campus, eventually becoming Assistant Director for Facility Design for 2 years on the Hillsborough County Historic Preservation Grants Review Committee. He liked working with a team, and encouraging younger talent. He worked within the university context, drawn by the idea of community and shared purpose. He continued to enjoy working and reluctantly retired when

Walter loved ideas, and talking about ideas. He was excited by the new. He was ambitious, and also restless. He liked the idea of serendipity. He relished meeting new people. He was interested in the concept of society, and one's role in it, and especially the architect's role in it. He liked to read about the intersection of science and philosophy. He loved to observe the natural world, even in his backyard. He loved wine and good food (especially his wife's family). He was, ultimately, in awe of the world, hopeful, and at peace.

The family has requested in lieu of flowers, please donate to the Audubon Society.

https://act.audubon.org/a/donate-temp?r=true&SelectedFrequency=6&ms=digital-fund-web-website_nas_tophome_20240200&aud_path=/&_gl=1*h5wrs9*_ga*MTg2Nzg4MzA0OS4xNzE2MjM1ODIx*_ga_X2XNL2MWTt*MTcxNjZlZnk

To view the service, please click the link below. The service will start Saturday 5/25/24 @ 4pm

<https://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/101117/hash:B57DD07237EA0658>



Events


Walter Pestrak

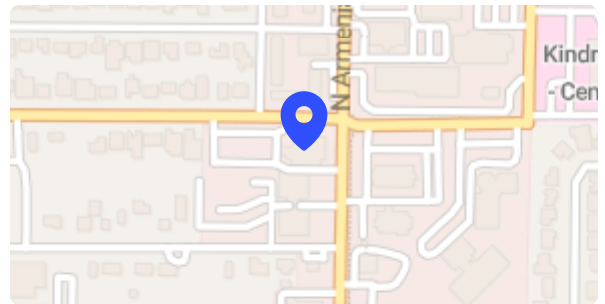
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Gathering of Friends and Family


 **Saturday, May 25, 2024**


 3:30 PM - 4:00 PM ET


 **Boza & Roel Funeral Home**
4730 North Armenia Avenue, Tampa FL 33603

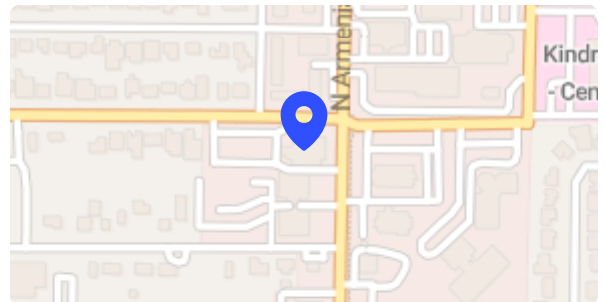


Funeral Service


 **Saturday, May 25, 2024**

 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET


 **Boza & Roel Funeral Home**
4730 North Armenia Avenue, Tampa FL 33603

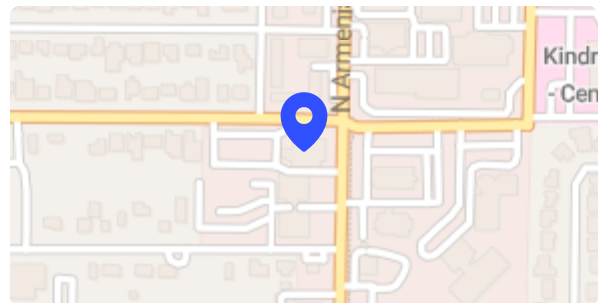


Time of Sharing

 **Saturday, May 25, 2024**

 5:00 PM - 5:30 PM ET

 **Boza & Roel Funeral Home**
4730 North Armenia Avenue, Tampa FL 33603





Tribute Wall

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Boza & Roel Funeral Home shared a **Video**.

May 25 at 11:09 AM





Media

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Boza & Roel Funeral Home shared a **Video**.

May 25 at 11:09 AM





Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Walter by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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