



George J. Kakales

April 16, 1938 - July 22, 2020

Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford

Mr. George John Kakales, 82, passed away on Wednesday, July 22, 2020, in Oxford, MS. A private family memorial service will be held on Friday, July 24 with Father David Bibeau.

George was born on April 16, 1938, in Kastania, Greece to the late John and Eleni Kakales. He and his wife Dimitra moved from Greece to Stuttgart, Germany before immigrating to the United States alongside their son John in 1969. They settled in St. Louis, Missouri, where their daughter Libbie was born, before eventually settling down in Oxford, MS.

George was a quiet man who worked as a shepherd in the mountains of Greece, a factory worker in Germany, but most notably as one the faces behind the family restaurant, Dino's. He became a local icon by welcoming you to the family table to play a game of backgammon or chess, to enjoy a cigar, and to share some of his precious ouzo. After he retired in 1996, George volunteered his time with the Kiwanis Club where you could find him in the pantry and driving veterans to the VA Hospital in Memphis, TN. He was recognized as "Kiwanian of the Year" in 2001. He also enjoyed ringing the Salvation Army bell at Christmas, tending to the garden, and spending time with his family.

Mr. Kakales is survived by Dimitra “Toula” Kakales, of Oxford, MS; two children, John George (Beth) Kakales, of Memphis TN, and Libbie (Kevin) Kakales Patterson of Oxford; a brother Vasili “Bill” (Stavroula) Kakales of Bruce, MS; two sisters Stamo Papas of Tupelo, MS and Theodora (Sophoklis) Demos of Stuttgart, Germany; and four grandchildren, Mary Elizabeth Kakales and John Matthew Kakales, of Memphis, and George Alexander Patterson and Michael Elias Patterson, of Oxford.

The family wishes to extend their love and gratitude to the men and women at The Blake in Oxford, MS; the staff at Yalobusha General Hospital in Water Valley, MS; Dr. Yates and his staff; and our wonderful family and friends for their prayers and support.

Expressions of sympathy or memorial contributions may be made to the Pantry of Oxford and Lafayette County or by enjoying a meal at any locally owned restaurant.

Online Condolences are highly encouraged to be shared on the Tribute Wall at www.colemanfuneralhome.com.

Tribute Wall



“ Coleman Funeral Home of Oxford created a Tribute Video in memory of George J. Kakales



Coleman Funeral Home - September 25, 2020 at 11:02 AM

JT

What a great video. I have fond memories of talking to Mr. Kakales at his restaurant and also around the corner at the Abby's Irish Rose pub in the late 1970s. I lived next door to his brother Billy then.

John Thomason - December 25, 2025 at 03:43 AM



“ 104 files added to the album LifeTributes



Coleman Funeral Home - September 25, 2020 at 10:56 AM

DL

“ *What a beautiful obituary for a beautiful life. We have such wonderful memories of Mr. Kakales, and that picture of him is joyous, and looks just like John. We are thinking of you and praying for you as you grieve. Know that we care.
All our love,
Dorothy and John Lorenzo
And ditto to what Reni said about Dino's:)*

Dorothy and John Lorenzo - August 12, 2020 at 06:22 PM



“ *The entire Skudder family is so sorry for your loss... I know he is already greatly missed! What a joy and privilege it was to know him and I hate we hadn't seen him recently. Thoughts and prayers lifted for your whole family. Beth and David Skudder*

Beth Skudder - July 29, 2020 at 02:54 PM

TF

“ *Connie and I send our condolences for your loss. It has been a privilege to know George and to have enjoyed your fellowship over the years--what great coffee! What great food at Dino's! "Now the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, even Jesus our Lord," comfort you and bless you in your mourning. Our love to all your family.*

Tim Flake - July 28, 2020 at 02:20 PM

DR

“ *A prince of a man. May his memory be eternal.*

Dr. Vince Rodriguez - July 26, 2020 at 03:53 PM

RB

“ Dear Mrs, Kakales, John, and Libby,
I'm so sorry to hear about your loss. One of my favorite childhood memories is going to Dino's with my dad. My mom told me how excited my dad was when he learned y'all were Greek and how George was one of his first clients. The first time I had pizza that wasn't from Dino's, I thought it wasn't really pizza. No one makes a crust and sauce the way he did. How I wish someone did!! Or that I knew how. I loved reading more about his life in his obituary. May God comfort you with His Presence as only He can.

Reni Bumpas - July 25, 2020 at 02:30 PM

NP

“ We got to know Mr. George when his club met at Bofields each week. He was a delightful, sweet, caring person...Heaven gained a wonderful angel and he will be missed on earth.
Tommy and Nina Patrick

nina patrick - July 24, 2020 at 10:51 PM

PC

“ It is evident what a big heart George Kakales had by how he lived his life - a shepherd, a friendly restaurant owner, a loving father and husband, and a dedicated Kiwanis member. He cared about the well-being of people and of the community. George will most assuredly be missed. Hollis and Pamela Crowder

Pamela Crowder - July 24, 2020 at 03:20 PM

GC

“ We send our love & sympathy to Toula & her family. Toula has shared many stories of life in Greece and the early days in America in the St. Andrew’s Quilting Room. The courage & hope it must have taken to leave behind their families & homeland to come to America is so inspiring. I will miss George’s big smile & hearty “How ya do-in? greeting! Gail & Bob Coleman

Gail Coleman - July 24, 2020 at 01:19 PM

DB

“ I am so sorry to hear this, Mr George was an exceptional man. he was a leader in our community. He and his family touched so many lives. May God wrap him in his arms, and comfort his family. Thank you Mr Kakales for the love and friendship you showed us all. the world will be a lessor place without you, but heaven has gained an angel.

Doug Boggs - July 24, 2020 at 11:51 AM

JY

“ So very sorry to hear of your loss. Praying for God's comfort and strength. Wish times were different and we could be there for all of you as John was for us, when we lost Troy. Please know our prayers and love will be lifted up for you! 🙏

Judy and Jerry Young - July 24, 2020 at 09:58 AM

KS

“ I miss the smell of his cigar as he sat on his rolling garden buddy plucking weeds from the grass or walking over to chat and to see what I was doing. George was always ready to talk and had lots of advice on how to do most things. He was a wonderful neighbor for 32+ years and will be greatly missed. Cricket will be glad to see him.

Kathy Shoalmire - July 24, 2020 at 12:28 AM

LD

“ *May George’s memory be eternal and slumber deep and peaceful until the trumpets sound His coming. Sending love and prayers for peace and comfort.*

Lisa Dalton

Lisa Dalton - July 23, 2020 at 09:36 PM

JW

“ *George was a wonder neighbor. He was a great pizza maker, gardener, and always cheerful and funny. He is already greatly missed. Our thoughts and prayers are with his wonderful family.*

John, Christy, Margaret, Lizzie, and Katie Williamson

John S Williamson - July 23, 2020 at 07:51 PM