



Pete Cole

January 28, 1939 - March 30, 2012

Peter W. "Pete" Cole, 73, of Liberty Center, died Friday, March 30, 2012 at his home, surrounded by family members.

A leader in major Wells County governmental actions for more than 30 years, Pete was born in New York, N.Y., on January 28, 1939, to Claude Wayne and Pauline Allayne (Lebowitz) Cole.

He had resided in Liberty Center since 1948 and was a graduate of Liberty Center High School. He graduated from Purdue University with honors and with a Bachelor of Science degree in Chemical Engineering. He attained a Master's Degree in Finance from Ball State University.

Pete had been a member of Wells County Council since first elected as a Republican in 1980 and had been president of that governing body since January of 1989.

He served on the 11-member building committee for the Wells County Council on Aging/Senior Citizen Building project in 1993.

During the 1970s he served a term on the Southern Wells Community Schools Board of Trustees. He was a former member of the Liberty Center Lions Club, Bluffton Elks Lodge and Bluffton Kiwanis Club. He attended the Warren Church of Christ.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Pete spent three years with the Strategic Air Command, attaining the rank of first lieutenant. He was a ROTC commander during his time at Purdue.

He was a licensed pilot and a registered professional engineer.

Pete was retired as an executive with PHD Inc. in Fort Wayne and Huntington and had previously served 19 years at the Corning Glass facility in Bluffton as a plant engineer and maintenance supervisor.

On Feb. 4, 1963, Pete was married to Melba N. Valentin in Carson City, Nevada.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by three children, Elizabeth Ann (Robert C.) Koehne of Indianapolis; Matthew Wayne (Jessica M.) Cole of Indianapolis and Christopher Allen (Lora M.) Cole, also of Indianapolis. Other survivors include eight grandchildren, R. Cameron Koehne, Kyle A. Koehne, Adam C. Turvey, Clayton M. Cole, Madeline C. Cole, Coen R. Cole, Alayna C. Cole and Griffin W. Cole.

Also surviving is a brother, David (Lari) Cole of Roanoke, Indiana. He was preceded in death by a sister, Janet A. Cole.

Calling will be held Tuesday from 2 to 8 p.m. at Thoma/Rich, Chaney & Lemler Funeral Home.

A Service of Remembrance and Celebration will be held at 10:30 a.m. Wednesday at the funeral home with Certified Celebrant Jeff Lemler and Mayor Ted Ellis officiating.

Entombment will in the Cole Family Mausoleum at Fairview Cemetery with military graveside rites by American Legion Post 111 Honor Guard and the U.S. Air Force.

Memorials may be made in Pete's memory to the Wells County Foundation.

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 3. 2:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home
308 West Washington Street
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-3850
info@thomarich.com

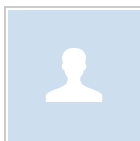
Tribute Wall



“ *Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home created a Tribute Video in memory of Pete Cole*

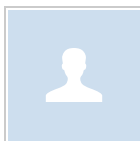


Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home - March 30, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Pete Cole*

September 08, 2022 at 08:26 PM



“ *I worked with Pete at PHD many years ago. I thoroughly enjoyed our conversations and respected him very much. He was a good man with a great work ethic. We need more people like Pete.*

God bless you and your family in this time of remembrance.##imported-begin##Linda Grush##imported-end##

April 11, 2012 at 03:24 PM



“ *To the Cole Family,
Our thoughts and prayers are with you at this time.
Tim and Tammy Cullen and Meghann##imported-begin##Tim Cullen##imported-end##*

April 04, 2012 at 09:51 AM



“ I worked with Pete for years as the insurance agent for PHD and always enjoyed his wit and stories.##imported-begin##Connie Overholser Denihan##imported-end##

April 04, 2012 at 08:53 AM



“ Melba, Liz, Matt, & Chris: From my immediate family both in Granger Indiana and Liberty Center Indiana, I want to extend our sincere condolences to your family for your loss. I am sorry I cannot be there to support and console. My best memory of Pete was him being the parent substitute for Liz in a HS spanish class and getting her an A for the day, and knew better Spanish than the teacher!! Pete will be dearly missed by many people he had touched.##imported-begin##Douglas Grover##imported-end##

April 03, 2012 at 06:01 PM



“ I am very sorry for the Cole and Koehne families. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Darren Tucker##imported-begin##Darren Tucker##imported-end##

April 03, 2012 at 10:21 AM



“ Dear Melba , Liz , Matt, Chris: & David and your families.. My thoughts and prayers are with you . So sorry to hear of Pete passing on so quickly. He certainly did take care of business, I didn't realize just how much..God Bless.##imported-begin##Cynthia (Biberstine) Hickey##imported-end##

April 02, 2012 at 11:08 PM



“ *Melba and Family,
We are sorry to hear of Pete's passing. Chad has been remembering all of the good times he and Pete had at Purdue and during their childhood. Our thoughts and prayers are with all of you.*

*Chad and Judy Garrett###imported-begin##Chad and Judy
Garrett###imported-end##*

April 02, 2012 at 09:23 PM



“ *We send our sympathy to the family of Pete. We have such good memories of Pete and his father and mother during the years we all spent in Liberty Center.*

*God bless you, his family. You probably never met us, but we were Liberty Center people for many years.###imported-begin##Tom and
Nancy Haiflich###imported-end##*

April 02, 2012 at 07:52 PM



“ *Melba and Family, So sorry to hear of Petes passing. I have many good memories of the times I spent in your home while growing up. I was fortunate to run in to Pete from time to time and he always updated me on all your lives. He was so proud of all of you and I am so proud to have known him.###imported-begin##Brian
Ruble###imported-end##*

April 02, 2012 at 07:11 PM



“ Melba and Family, We are thinking about you at this time of sadness. Know Pete will be missed by Liberty Center, and the whole Wells County community. Just wanted to extend our deepest sympathy. Wayne and Cindy(McElhaney) Monticue###imported-begin###Wayne and Cindy Monticue###imported-end###

April 02, 2012 at 10:38 AM



“ Please know that you are in my thoughts and prayers. Pete always tried to make me think he was mean and gruff ... but I knew better. :) May he rest in peace.###imported-begin###Delora (Scott) Hartsock###imported-end###

April 01, 2012 at 09:24 PM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with the Cole family. God Bless Pete and God Bless the family.###imported-begin###Al and Mary Porrata###imported-end###

April 01, 2012 at 06:21 PM



“ I remember Pete from my childhood as my best friend's older brother. Pete would collar Dave and I occasionally and keep us in line. He was a great asset to Wells County and to all who knew him.###imported-begin###Brent Cardin###imported-end###

March 31, 2012 at 08:08 PM



“ My sincere condolences to the entire family. Pete and I grew up only a block apart and were in the same class together. I saw him the last time I was home. We had a good talk and he was the same ole Pete. The world has lost a super guy.##imported-begin##Karyn Venis Irvin##imported-end##

March 30, 2012 at 10:16 PM