



## Eugene "Sonny" Adolf Meier

December 18, 1940 - February 5, 2022

Eugene "Sonny" Meier of Lewes, DE, passed away at the age of 81 late in the evening on February 5, 2022. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Sharon Meier. He is also survived by his loving children: daughter, Carolynn Meier deTessieres of Bowie, MD, Steven Meier of Durango, CO, daughter, Lynda Meier of Catonsville, MD; Also, by son-in-law, Alex deTessieres; darling grandchildren: Leah and Lucius deTessieres; brother, Paul Meier; nephew, Michael Meier (the late Yung Chi), nieces: Jodi Meier (Mike Overly), Carrie Meier (Kevin Wetter), and grand-niece, Acacia Overly. He is preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Lynn Walter Meier.

Sonny, nicknamed as a baby thanks to sharing his father's first name, was born in Washington, DC on December 18, 1940. His parents, Eugene and Marta Meier, both from Germany, met in immigration class. Eugene's sense of humor and Marta's devoted nature were passed on to both their sons. Sonny grew up in Mt. Rainier, MD, where he and his little brother, Paul, ran wild with a host of neighbor kids, some of whom he stayed close with their entire lives. The family attended St. John's Episcopal Church in Mt. Rainier where Sonny remained an active member for many years. He attended Northwestern High School in Hyattsville, MD, where he was a bass drummer in the marching band. Music was an important part of his life whether it was drumming on a car console, tinkering on a piano, or playing his guitar.

After graduating high school in 1958, Sonny enlisted with the United States Air Force where he served as Air Force Police. His service took him to Massachusetts, Texas, and eventually Paris, France where he would spend his evenings playing acoustic guitar in local bars. Sonny was born a natural showman and would always be well-received by audiences. His service in the USAF led him to be a life-long airplane enthusiast. Throughout his life he was quick to abruptly call out the make and model of an aircraft.

In 1963, Sonny met the love of his life, Sharon on a blind date. They were married on May 14, 1966, and soon after bought their long-time home in Lanham, MD. Sonny had several jobs including working for an automatic door company, a new technology at the time. He

then worked as a linotype machinist at The Washington Star newspaper. Always wanting to communicate with everyone he encountered, he learned sign language from his deaf coworkers at The Star. He and Sharon welcomed their first daughter, Carolynn, in 1968. Sonny shared the news of their firstborn by painting a sheet-sized sign reading "IT'S A GIRL!" and hanging it across the front of their house. He would do this for all his children; Steven in 1971 and Lynda in 1976.

After being trained as a certified electrical controls technician in the mid-1970s, Sonny worked for Robertshaw Controls, where he was contracted to work with various companies including the Mobil Corporation in northern Virginia. He enjoyed his coworkers, and they, he. Sonny remained with Robertshaw Controls (Siebe / Invensys) until he retired in 2007.

Sonny remained a devoted member of St. John's Episcopal Church, Mt. Rainier where he served on the Vestry as Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, then Treasurer. Sonny's gregarious personality resulted with him being asked to lead many fellowship events where he emceed raffles, led Pancake Suppers, and always helped in any way he could.

Sonny was also active with the Diocese of Washington in a variety of ways. In the mid-1980s, he served as a delegate at the General Convention of The Episcopal Church. Sonny also participated in a DC area Interfaith Ministry group which promoted respect, understanding, and camaraderie within the community.

One of his closest friends was Fr. Tom Engram of St. John's. It was that friendship that led to Sonny and his family spending summer weekends at Fr. Tom's "beach house" near Millsboro, Delaware. In 1999, Sonny and Sharon bought land nearby as they planned their retirement.

In 2007, Sonny and Sharon moved from Lanham to Lewes as they began their well-deserved retirement. He began attending St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Lewes, where he enjoyed simply being a parishioner. Soon after, Sonny was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease - something he was all too familiar with due to his father's diagnosis many years before. Sonny became active in the Parkinson's Education & Support Group of Sussex County. His big personality was welcomed at any event, and for a few years he led a PD exercise group. Sonny remained involved with the group until a few years ago when he became more reserved and private.

In addition to music, Sonny had a variety of interests during his life. On many a summer weekend, he could be found tending to his robust vegetable garden, often making it a fun

activity to share with his kids. Sonny was most proud of his home-grown tomatoes. Sonny coached many of his kids' sports teams including tee-ball, soccer, and basketball. When not coaching, he could be found yelling from the sidelines like most proud parents. Sonny was a fan of bluegrass music and unapologetically blared DC's 88.5fm throughout the house most Saturday mornings in the early 1980's. He was also an excellent maker of German Pancakes - a family breakfast favorite.

He had a knack for telling his kids "We're going on a bike ride", not disclosing the distance or destination. The distance; long. The destination; Tastee Freeze, a favored ice cream shop and delightful payoff for all.

When his mother needed more care later in her life, almost daily Sonny would visit her on his way home from work to be sure she was well. When she could no longer live alone, Sonny and his family welcomed her into their home to care for her until her passing.

Sonny brought light into every room he entered. He made strangers feel at ease. He was proud of his family and never failed to regularly thank them for their help, especially these past few years. He was a devoted husband, father, and son. He loved his grandchildren, humans and pets alike. Humor was the family's love language with which he was surrounded up through his final hours. He was a favorite in every community in which he participated and always had a joke at the ready. Sonny made so many people laugh throughout his life and would be delighted if that is how he's remembered.

A graveside service with urn entombment will be held on Thursday, February 17, 2022 at 11:00 AM, at St. Peter's Pilottown Cemetery, Pilottown Rd., Lewes, DE.

In lieu of flowers, donations in memory of Eugene "Sonny" Meier may be made to Parkinson's Education & Support Group of Sussex County, [www.sussexdeparkinsons.com](http://www.sussexdeparkinsons.com), or The Michael J. Fox Foundation, [www.michaeljfox.org](http://www.michaeljfox.org)

Please sign the virtual guestbook located on the tribute page.

# Previous Events

## Flowers

FEB **16**. 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Parsell Funeral Homes & Crematorium-Atkins-Lodge Chapel  
16961 Kings Highway  
Lewes, DE 19958

## Graveside Service

FEB **17**. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

St. Peter's Cemetery  
Pilottown Road  
Lewes, DE

# Tribute Wall

MB

“ *"Larger than life" is an understatement. "Generous" doesn't even begin to describe him. I can't imagine that anyone who ever met him could ever forget him. I love you, Sonny.*  
*Marty*

Marty Baumann - February 25 at 11:59 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Eugene "Sonny" Adolf Meier.*



February 19 at 02:13 PM

WB

“ *Wendy, Justin, Miranda, and Barbara purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of Eugene "Sonny" Adolf Meier.*



Wendy, Justin, Miranda, and Barbara - February 16 at 11:45 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Eugene "Sonny" Adolf Meier.*



February 16 at 11:30 AM

CJ

“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Craig Johnston - February 16 at 09:04 AM

CJ

*Sonny and Tom Denike at a X-MAS party*

**Craig Johnston** - February 16 at 10:44 AM

CJ

“ *Craig & Debby Johnston purchased the Sweet Tranquility Basket for the family of Eugene "Sonny" Adolf Meier.*



**Craig & Debby Johnston** - February 16 at 08:20 AM



“ *Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Eugene "Sonny" Adolf Meier.*



February 14 at 09:18 PM

PC

“ *I met Sonny some years back when the people of St. Peter's helped with the summer breakfast program for college students that took place at All Saints' in Rehoboth. The students loved Sonny as he always joked with them and made them smile. He lit up the room those mornings. I recall him as a very kind, generous person.*

**Pat Casadei** - February 14 at 01:24 PM