



Henry "Pete" Joseph LaBranche, Jr.

January 30, 1944 - May 5, 2022

On May 5, 2022, Henry "Pete" Joseph LaBranche, Jr. died peacefully at the home of life-long friend LT "PeeWee" Scioneaux, Jr. in Reserve. He was 78. Pete is survived by his sister Sherry Calcagno (Joe), brother Zene LaBranche and five nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his parents Henry J. LaBranche and Mabel Vicknair LaBranche Madere and half-brother Murphy Madere, Jr.

Pete was born January 30, 1944 in Crevasse and lived in the area his whole life. He graduated from Leon Godchaux High School in 1964 and was #73 on the Reserve Wildcats football team. He is a veteran of the Vietnam War and served honorably in the Army. After attending Delgado, he worked as an Operator for Shell Chemical Company in Norco for 25 years. He retired at the young age of 52.

His idea of retirement was far from resting on his laurels – he kept busy farming and hunting. He had a green thumb like his mother and would grow a wide variety of fruits and vegetables. He was best known for his juicy, delicious creole tomatoes. Although he loved tending to the land, his true passion was rabbit hunting with his beloved team of Beagles. If you were ever looking for Pete, you would most likely find him in his chicken coup clubhouse cooking a pot of spicy smothered rabbit, watching a football game, with a cold brew in his hand.

At Pete's request, there will be a small, private mass at St. Peter's Catholic Church for immediate family members only.

In lieu of flowers, the family asks that you plant a vegetable in his honor so when you enjoy the fruit of your labor you'll think of him and smile.

Arrangements by Millet-Guidry Funeral Home. To share memories or condolences, please visit www.milletguidry.com

Tribute Wall



“ Henry "Pete" Joseph LaBranche, Jr.

October 05, 2023 at 08:59 AM



“ Our thoughts and prayers are with Mr. Zene, Mrs. Sherry, Leslie, April, and all of Mr. Pete's family. We have many good memories of him. From helping to make tomato boxes for him and Mr. Zene to his monkey that he had at one time! Lol. He and Mr. Zene is like our uncles. We always went to play with Leslie and April when we were kids at there Mawmaw's house. Rest in peace Uncle Pete. You will be missed dearly. I have these tomatoes I planted that I am dedicating in your honor although they will never be as good as yours and Mr. Zene's. Hugs and prayers as you all go through this most difficult time.



Kelly Thibodeaux - May 11, 2022 at 05:57 AM

KC

“ My first job at Shell was at M Unit where I met Pete. He taught me many things about operating and about enjoying life. One of the things he told me when I first got hired was, “Ken, if you see me running, you better pass me up.” Pete never ran, he always went toward. He knew his job and he expected you to know yours too.. Pete introduced this city boy to rabbit hunting, crawfishing in the spillway, raising chickens, farming and, raising, preparing and cooking a pig. He used every bit of that pig except the oink. The first time he took me rabbit hunting he told me, “Ken, don’t shot my dogs.”

We would go to the little store and have a few “less than premium beers” and shoot some pool. Some of the best times of my life. Going to miss you Peto.

Ken Cronin - May 09, 2022 at 03:17 PM

BM

“ I always remember competing with Peto in the old softball league when he played first base for Vicknair’s Produce and I played SS for Millet Wholesale. When I batted he always challenged me to hit one by him; I learned to hit to oppsite field and hit many a ball at him with mixed results. He was a great friend whom I always looked for at class reunions but never found him. I also played defensive end next to him on our 1962 team that went to state against Neville. Peto, John Schutz and I were the Laplace side of defense and used to challenge the Reserve side, Bobby Vicknair, Richard Maus, plus? on holding opponents back. Peto was a quiet, gentle soul with a heart if gold. Many good memories growing up with him.



Bobby Millet - May 09, 2022 at 02:30 PM

BM

In memory of an old friend....

Bobby Millet - May 09, 2022 at 02:32 PM

SM

Pete and I were friends and graduated together from Reserve High School. He later joined me at Shell Chemical Norco and for a brief time worked together in C Unit. We car pooled together at times. He got drafted and went to Vietnam and returned to Shell upon his discharge. He worked M Unit then and we still crossed paths in our jobs. Pete was a nice guy and treated everyone with respect. Just a big kind fella. I hadn't seen him in years but thought about him often and wondered what he was doing in his later years. I was deeply saddened when I heard the news of his passing. RIP my friend. My condolences to his family.

Scrap Montz - May 09, 2022 at 05:55 PM

RL

We are very sorry to hear about my cousin and good friend Pete. He was a big gentle guy and love to hunt rabbits and like everyone else, plant a garden. We were both drafted in the Army at the same time, but I didn't know. Who in the hell do I run across in the jungles on the DMZ line was my good friend. He was loading a helicopter with ammunition to bring to his unit. May you rest in peace . My condolences go out to Zene, Sherry and his family.

Russel Landeche - May 12, 2022 at 12:42 PM