



Peter Ballard

April 27, 1972 - December 25, 2023

Defender of equity, lifelong Steelers fan, avid poker player and an amazing friend, father, son, brother and husband, Pete Ballard passed away at age 51 from cancer. Pete dedicated his career to helping the underserved. He spent more than a decade at Chicago Public Schools, where he introduced the school report cards that are still used today. He then went to CTA, committed to keeping transit accessible for all and introducing energy efficient solutions for the country's second largest public transportation system.

He was dedicated to his family, enjoying takeout Thai food, travel, and savoring good coffee and beer with his wife of 24 years, Carrie. The role he was most proud of was as Maya and Hayden's dad, attending hockey games, regularly losing to Hayden at chess, and accompanying both kids on every one of their college visits. He loved swapping New Yorker captions and Spelling Bee results with his mom, Jane, exchanging fantasy football picks with his brother, Mark, and talking about books and medicine with his sister, Amy, whom he fondly called 'Jinny.' He was devoted to his nieces and nephews. His rescue dog, Pogo, was never far from his side.

He came to life at the poker table or watching the Steelers play and enjoyed both until his final days. After his cancer diagnosis, he declared a mantra of 'no bad days,' and the family lived life to the fullest – traveling the world, eating great food and reveling in each other's company.

His dry wit and generous heart earned him the love of friends and family, who will miss him terribly. He is survived by his wife Carolyn (Carrie); his children Maya and Hayden; his brother Mark; his sister Yoo Jin Amy McNamara (Michael Anderson) and his mother, Jane. He was predeceased by his father Dana (Mary Hayhoe)

Visitation at St. Gertrude Church (1420 W. Granville Ave., Chicago, IL 60660) on Saturday, Jan. 6, 2024 at 10 a.m. followed by a celebration of life mass at 11. Guests are invited to wear their brightest colors and bring a good joke.

In lieu of flowers, donations to University of Chicago Urban Health Initiative <https://dev-givetomedicine.pantheonsite.io/our-work/community-health/>

Previous Events

Memorial Gathering in Church

JAN 6. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

St Gertrude Catholic Church
1420 W Granville Ave
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 764-3621

Memorial Mass

JAN 6. 11:00 AM (CT)

St Gertrude Catholic Church
1420 W Granville Ave
Chicago, IL 60660
(773) 764-3621

Tribute Wall

KG

“Pete was one of my very best long distance friends! We met on our retreats in Canandaigua, and then lived for the next visit with my friend in Rochester, Auburn, Darien Lake or Pray & ski at Bristol. I havent seen or hugged my friend since visiting him at Colgate. I am loving reading peoples' memories of him! Im so sorry to hear of his struggle and thankful that he and his family made the best is an unthinkable illness! Not sure if anyone will see this post, but hoping! Rest in peace Pete! Love you much friend!!!

Krit Gunn - October 15, 2025 at 05:41 PM

EW

“Ballard family, I am so very sorry for your loss. I worked with Pete on energy efficiency options for CTA about 2013-15 when I worked for the University of Illinois. He was so enthusiastic, kind and generous to me! He spoke with great affection about his family. I will miss him!
Eileen Westervelt

Eileen Westervelt - February 04, 2024 at 11:35 AM

AS

“My deepest condolences. Pete worked for me at the Illinois Power Agency for a time in 2021, and we were very sad when he had to step away to focus on his health.

-Anthony

Anthony Star - January 09, 2024 at 06:27 PM

HL

“ *May Pete’s memory be a blessing. Sending love and peace to the entire family.*

Howie

Howie Levine - January 05, 2024 at 12:09 PM

ME

“ *Sending love, prayers and peace to Chicago. Thinking of you all and holding you in prayer.*



Megan - January 03, 2024 at 11:50 AM

ML

“ *Mikhail Lyubansky lit a candle in memory of Peter Ballard*



Mikhail Lyubansky - January 02, 2024 at 01:07 PM

ML

I'm very sorry for your loss. May you find some comfort in his memory and in the company of loved ones!

Mikhail Lyubansky - January 02, 2024 at 01:10 PM

KC

“ So many of my Yarmouth Rd memories involve Pete - how lucky we all were that he and Rick became friends over 40 years ago. He's always been an honorary member of the Staropoli family. Sending you all so much love and peace <3

Karen Crowe - January 01, 2024 at 09:10 PM

MA

“ Marilu Aguilar lit a candle in memory of Peter Ballard



Marilu Aguilar - December 31, 2023 at 05:56 PM

MA

Jane, I'm so very sorry for your loss. My heart is with you and your family during this sad time. Sending prayers and love. We prayed for Peter this morning at the 9:30 mass at Spiritus Christi during prayers for the deceased. Peace to you, Jane.

Marilu Aguilar - December 31, 2023 at 06:03 PM

JM

“ Pete was a great person and I have very fond childhood memories of spending time with Pete at his house watching Bill and Ted's excellent adventure, making burritos, and playing with Dusty. We understand the last few years have been very difficult for Pete and his family, but please remember the positive impact that Pete had on all who knew him.

Jim Mitchell - December 31, 2023 at 02:01 PM

SS

“ *Sr. Donna Del Santo SSJ lit a candle in memory of Peter Ballard*



Sr. Donna Del Santo SSJ - December 30, 2023 at 09:51 PM

SS

Peter, a light that shines in the darkness of our world

Sr. Donna Del Santo SSJ - December 30, 2023 at 09:52 PM

SP

“ *Sr. Marilyn Pray lit a candle in memory of Peter Ballard*



Sr. Marilyn Pray - December 29, 2023 at 07:41 AM

JW

“ *JEFFREY WESEMAN lit a candle in memory of Peter Ballard*



JEFFREY WESEMAN - December 29, 2023 at 04:20 AM

LM

“Pete and Carrie met at UW Madison. Before they were engaged, they came up to Minneapolis to visit Pete’s Mpls. cousins. We had the first of many great times with one of our favorite couples. Pete taught me how to live and accept death with fight, grace, humor and love. Will miss you Pete so much.

Laurie McNamara - December 28, 2023 at 06:20 PM

GA

“I cherish the memories of all our family get-togethers where, inevitably, Pete would say something that made me laugh out loud. He brought that kind of feeling to everything. I don't think we can learn to live without him, but maybe we can learn to live with the love he leaves behind. -Gail

Gail - December 28, 2023 at 06:18 PM

JP

“My thoughts and prayers are with everyone as you grieve the loss of a wonderful man. My memories of Pete are of the smile he always had for each and every person. I hope in the coming days your memories provide you some peace.

Jennifer Minnerly Page - December 28, 2023 at 01:51 PM