



Dr. James George Sousoulas

MAY 29, 1928 - OCT 28, 2023



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Dr. James George Sousoulas

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Dr. James George Sousoulas, born May 29, 1928, passed away peacefully in his sleep on October 28, 2023. He was the second son of George F. and Mary Sousoulas, both of Memphis, Tennessee.

Orphaned at a young age with the untimely loss of both parents, Jim, alongside his brother Frank, journeyed to Athens, Greece, where their cousin, George Cousaftis, became their guardian.

Educational endeavors at the American School in Athens were abruptly interrupted by the onset of World War II, compelling their return to the United States. Upon returning, Jim attended Gulf Coast Military Academy. After completing junior high school, he returned to Memphis, and while simultaneously managing the family's restaurant and pursuing his education, he graduated from Christian Brothers High School.

Their father's legacy, the iconic North Memphis Café, renowned for its soulful culinary delights, played a central role in their early lives. This establishment was immortalized in a famous song, "North Memphis Blues," by the acclaimed blues singer Memphis Minnie, a testament to its cultural significance in the Memphis community. Despite their success in the restaurant business, both brothers eventually embarked on separate career paths.

Jim excelled in his studies, graduating with a BS degree in chemistry from Memphis State University, followed by the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry, graduating first in his class, marking the beginning of his illustrious dental career.

In 1954, Jim joined in matrimony with Sophie Makris, initiating a devoted partnership that spanned an impressive 69 years. Serving as an Air Force Captain in Bermuda, he practiced dentistry and, while stationed there, welcomed their first child, Stephanie. Upon completing his required military service, he returned to Memphis, establishing a successful private dental practice and celebrating the birth of their son, George.



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A devoted family man, Jim and Sophie were blessed with eight grandsons: Andrew Alissandratos (Amanda), Nicholas Alissandratos (Amy), Christopher Walker (Jessica), Benjamin Walker, Alexander Walker, Michael Sousoulas (Megan), Evan Sousoulas, and John Sousoulas, as well as three great-grandchildren.

Dr. James Sousoulas will be remembered for his unwavering dedication to family, profession, and community. In addition to his private practice, he taught at the University of Tennessee College of Dentistry for several decades, as well as provided volunteer services to patients at the Memphis Mental Health Institute during the 1970s. Notably, at the time of his retirement at age 92, he held the distinction of being the oldest practicing dentist in the state of Tennessee.

There will be a celebration of life reception this Friday, November 3rd, from 4:00pm to 6:00pm at Chickasaw Country Club.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be directed to the Annunciation Greek Orthodox Church, or the Pam and George Sousoulas Endowment Chair of Economics at Memphis University School.

Dr. James Sousoulas leaves behind a legacy steeped in love, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to both family and the dental profession, symbolizing a life of fortitude, determination, and the enduring bonds of family. The family extends heartfelt thanks to Jim's caregivers for their unwavering support during his final days.



Tribute Wall

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DS

Debbie Smith posted:

Dr. Sousoulas was such a delight! He's the only one I ever knew who made going to the dentist a pleasant experience to look forward to. I was so sad when he retired and am even more so now.

October 31 at 11:58 AM

PJ

Phyllis Judkins November 8 at 11:49 AM

When someone recommended Dr. Sousoulas to me 42 years ago, my teeth had been damaged by a dentist in West Memphis. He immediately identified the problem and knew exactly what needed to be done to fix the problems and relieve my pain. From that time until his retirement, our family saw Dr. Sousoulas. He was top in his field, reassuring and told the best life stories. He will be missed and always loved by our family. Heartfelt condolences to Sophie and his entire family.

ES

Elva Seward November 4 at 10:59 AM

Dr. Sousoulas was my dentist for years and he always made it a good experience. He was a great person, always asking about the family and sharing little things about his. My heart goes out to Sophie, who he always spoke of so lovingly, and to his family so dear to his heart.



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Dr. James by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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