



Peter Louis Gitz Jr.

MAR 8, 1935 - NOV 29, 2023



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Table of Contents

Obituary	Page 3
Events	Page 5
Tribute Wall	Page 6



Peter Louis Gitz Jr.

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Peter Louis Gitz Jr., at the age of 88, entered eternal rest peacefully on Wednesday morning, November 29, 2023, at his family home surrounded by his loving family. He was born in Madisonville, Louisiana on March 8, 1935, to Peter Louis Gitz Sr. and Ellen Raiford Gitz.

He is survived by his loving wife of 59 years Jo-Ann Bennett Gitz. His adoring children Peter Gitz III (Amy), Paul Gitz (Robin), Janet Gitz Casey (James), and Judy Gitz Yaple (Andrew). Peter was the proud grandfather of Ashlyn Gitz, Camden Gitz, Megan Gitz, Dillon Gitz, Cole Casey, Colin Casey, and Brynn Yaple. He was a caring brother of Raiford Gitz. Peter will be dearly missed by a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, wonderful lifelong friends, and the Madisonville community.

Peter was preceded in death by his parents Peter and Ellen Gitz, and brothers Ronald Gitz and Terry Gitz.

A proud lifelong resident of Madisonville, Peter graduated from Covington High School in 1954. He worked in management at Prestressed Concrete Products retiring after 27 years with the company. He took over ownership of Badeaux's Drive-In, famous for its hamburgers and milkshakes, in 1976.

He became Mayor of Madisonville in July 1976 and retired in 2016. His 40 years of service to the town of Madisonville came with many accomplishments and memorable moments: the building of the bulkhead on the riverfront, acquisition of the Madisonville Lighthouse and Lightkeepers house, being one of the originators of the Maritime Museum and the Wooden Boat Festival, bringing a regional-caliber library to Madisonville, which was later named after him, expansion of the town-owned natural gas service, and leadership after Hurricane Katrina, stories of the Silk Lady and the town's iconic rooster Reveille. He was parishioner to St. Anselm Catholic Church his entire life.

Peter was loving, compassionate, and most of all a very caring person to all. He enjoyed spending time on his farm tending to his cattle and sheep and baling hay. However, his true passion was



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spending time with his loving family and friends. Peter was unique and irreplaceable, well-respected and liked, and will be deeply and dearly missed by all who knew and loved him. His jovial spirit and tender, humble nature will remain in the many memories of his cherished friends and family until they meet him again.

The Gitz family expresses their deepest gratitude to the outstanding care provided by St. Tammany Hospice.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider, memorial contributions in memory of Peter Louis Gitz Jr. can be made to: St. Tammany Library Foundation, P.O. Box 131, Mandeville, La 70470 or Maritime Museum Louisiana, 133 Mabel Dr., Madisonville, La 70447.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Catholic Funeral Mass at St. Anselm Catholic Church, 307 St. Mary Street, Madisonville, Louisiana 70447, on Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 1:00 PM with visitation beginning at 10:00 AM until service time. Interment will take place privately at a later time. All are invited to attend a Celebration of Life at 3:00 PM at the Town of Madisonville Reception Hall, 403 St. Francis Street, Madisonville, Louisiana.

E.J. Fielding Funeral Home, locally owned and operated, (985) 892-9222, has been entrusted with funeral arrangements.

The Gitz family kindly invites you to share thoughts, fondest memories, and condolences online at E. J. Fielding Funeral Home Guest Book at www.ejfieldingfh.com.



Events

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Visitation

- Thursday**, December 7, 2023
- 10:00 AM - 1:00 PM CT
- St. Anselm Catholic Church**
306 St. Mary Street, Madisonville LA 70447



Funeral Mass

- Thursday**, December 7, 2023
- 1:00 PM CT
- St. Anselm Catholic Church**
306 St. Mary Street, Madisonville LA 70447





Tribute Wall

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d

Diane Kramer lit a candle in honor of Peter.

Jo Ann, my condolences on Pete's death. It's been many years since I saw you but I remember fondly your family, especially Aunt Thelma. God bless you. Diane DeBellevue Kramer

December 8 at 4:40 AM



DM

Dondra S Miller lit a candle in honor of Peter.

RIP you will be missed

December 7 at 6:27 AM



Anonymous sent a Lavender Reflections Spray to the Gitz family.

December 6 at 5:34 AM



Anonymous sent a Peaceful White Lilies Basket to the Gitz family.

December 5 at 9:16 AM



Anonymous sent a Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum to the Gitz family.

December 5 at 9:00 AM



Anonymous sent a Lily and Rose Tribute Spray to the Gitz family.

December 4 at 3:38 PM





Tribute Wall

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DG

Deb&Tim Griffith lit a candle in honor of Peter.



December 1 at 11:53 PM

CB

Carl Bennett Jr posted:

It is with great sadness that I bid farewell to my old friend Pete. He and my dad were the same age and grew up together around Madisonville. He always had a story to tell me about my dad back in the day. Pete was one of those people that I was always glad to see and he never failed to greet me with a smile and a handshake. There is no other way to put it but that he was a good and honorable man. I sure am going to miss him. My very sincere condolences to all of the family.

December 1 at 2:51 PM

EJ

Elaine Mire Johnson December 3 at 3:58 AM

I am so sorry to hear of Peter's passing. He was such a good friend to the Mire family.

MA

Michele Alexis December 3 at 1:21 AM

Mr Gitz was always kind and sweet every time I saw him whether it was in Badeaux's or anywhere around Madisonville. My thoughts and prayers are with the family and may you rest in peace. You were a great man Mr Pete.

MP

Michelle T Perilloux December 2 at 7:30 AM

Mrs JoAnn you, and the entire family are in my thoughts and prayers. I have known you my entire life growing up in our small beautiful town, my dad being a alderman for 32 years working along side Mr Pete. One of the best things about all the Wooden Boat Festivals I attended was I got to spend time with two of my favorite people catching up on all the "Important" things that had happened in the previous year. Mrs JoAnn, you know what I am talking about. I don't think I am will be able attend the services; as I recently had a surgery. Mrs JoAnn and family please know that I am sending all my Love. Please let me know if you need anything. RIP Mr Pete. All my love, Michelle Tyrney Perilloux.

DB

Dick Blossman December 1 at 3:54 PM

My sincere condolences to the Gitz Family - Peter was my friend, my classmate, my football team mate, - He was a Bull Dog at left tackle,(on offence & defence) Jersey # 35 - a Great Mayor - a Kind Gentleman -and most importantly, a very good person.- This is a big loss to the town of Madisonville and to his many, many, friends. - It was a great honor for all who knew him. GOD BLESS.Dick Blossman



Memories only last if you share them

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



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