

Chuck Duke's wife, Maisie passed away in December 2015 ([Obituary](#))

# MAISIE DUKE

1950 – 2015 Obituary Maisie Alice Fancella Duke passed away on December 27, 2015, at the age of 65, after a lengthy illness. Maisie was born on July 26, 1950, in Indiana, Pennsylvania, to Antonio and Maisie Fancella. Maisie's father was a coal miner and WWII veteran, and her mother was a war bride from Leicestershire, England. As a young girl, Maisie moved with her mother and siblings to El Paso, Texas. She had fond memories of attending school at Holy Family Catholic School. She graduated from Irvin High School with her class, despite working half days. She married Charles Duke in 1983 in El Paso, where they lived and loved until her death. Maisie loved to work. She had a lengthy work history beginning when she was just 16 years old as a clerk at the Sears candy counter and continuing with her later career in real estate. Maisie held her real estate license, and she worked as a researcher for several large real estate brokerage and management companies. She managed a large condominium complex and a multitenant office building. She was the office manager for the largest commercial real estate appraisal firm in El Paso, and she was as a Land and Contract Specialist with the City of El Paso, where she worked prior to her disability. Maisie was forced to retire after suffering a paralyzing aneurism in 2006, and her husband retired shortly thereafter to care for Maisie at home. Many people remember Maisie for her amazing memory. She was incredibly kind to others and was always willing to lend a helping hand to family, friends, and coworkers. She was often remembered for her beautiful pale blue eyes. Maisie loved to travel? her favorite destination was Las Vegas, but she also liked the mountains and the ocean. More than anything, though, Maisie loved to cook. She often said that after her paralysis, she missed cooking the most. Maisie loved holidays and celebrations with family, especially the young children. Maisie is preceded in death by her father, Antonio Fancella, and her brother, Tony Fancella. She is survived by her husband Charles Duke, her mother Maisie Baird, and her siblings Rachel Baird, David Roman, Byrgen Finkelman, Peggy Fancella Shaulis, and Linda Fancella. Maisie is also survived by her daughter Dianne Johnson, her son Matthew Johnson, her stepdaughter Laura Duke, and her stepson Jason Duke. Maisie is survived by her grandchildren, Alexis Villaseñor, Cheyann Hayes, Nathan Johnson, Elise Harrington, Anne and Beatrice Seale, and Elliott Duke, and by her greatgrandchildren, Brianne and Teddy Villaseñor. Maisie is survived by her niece Abigail Finkelman and nephews Isaac Finkelman, Michael Fancella, David Fancella, and Jeffery Seay. A private service was held for family members on Sunday, January 3, 2016, at Martin Funeral Home West. Flowers may be sent to 5821 Burning Tree, El Paso, Texas, 79912. Memories and condolences may be shared on the Martin Funeral Home West website. Published in El Paso Times from Feb.13 to Feb.20, 2016



Lois Applebaum's husband, Richard M. Applebaum, M.D., 84, a resident of Las Cruces, New Mexico, formerly of El Paso, Texas, died peacefully at home on July 17, 2015. Here is their

mailing address: 1751 Oro Piedras Drive, Las Cruces, NM 88011. ([Dr. Applebaum's obituary](#))

## RICHARD APPLEBAUM



Richard M. Applebaum, M.D., 84, a resident of Las Cruces, New Mexico, formerly of El Paso, Texas, died peacefully at home on July 17, 2015. His gentle spirit made him a wonderful father, physician, and husband. Richard was born to Dr. Samuel and Mrs. Ada Applebaum. Following in his father's footsteps, he earned his medical degree from St. Louis University. After graduation, he moved to Miami, Florida, for his residency in pediatric medicine. Richard met his wife Lois in Miami, and they married on January 3, 1960, and had four sons there. Dr. Applebaum was passionate about many causes during his 44 years of medical practice.

He was a proponent of breastfeeding with La Leche League and penned the book *Abreast of the Times*, spoke before Congress about Right to Life issues, and advocated for free vaccinations for the poor. His lifelong passion and pride belonged to his patients and his pediatric practice. His presence in the El Paso community as a caring and dedicated pediatrician continues to resonate with many families, even years after his retirement. In his personal life, he was an avid weight lifter and runner who completed three marathons. Piano, world travel, reading, chess, and ballroom dance rounded out his hobbies. He is survived by Lois, his wife of 55 years; his children Derek, Bruce (and wife Kirsten), Stephen, and Mark Applebaum; his grandchildren Kelsey and Brent Applebaum; and his sister Joyce Dewoskin. He is preceded in death by his sister Gloria Brownstein. There will be a private memorial service. Donations in his memory may be made to his favorite charity, The Wounded Warrior Project.

Published in El Paso Times from July 21 to July 28, 2015



Very sad news, Ruth Pepe passed away peacefully in her sleep Tuesday evening, July 14, 2015. Ruth supported our bridge club in many capacities; chairing bridge tournaments, serving on Unit 159's Board of Directors as well as our representative on the District 17 Board of Directors. She has struggled with health problems for many years, but always made it back to the club to play bridge as soon as she was out of the hospital. She truly loved the game. She will be deeply missed and especially her beautiful smile. ([Ruth's obituary](#))

## *Ruth Bell Rees Pepe*



1924 - 2015

Ruth B. Pepe, loving wife and mother, after battling many illnesses throughout her life with determined bravery and dignity, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, July 15, 2015.

Ruth was born May 24, 1924, in Montgomery, Alabama to Dr. and Mrs. Spence Rees. She moved to El Paso in 1949 to begin a career in the jewelry business working for Harry Shane with Henry Silverman. She met the love of her life in El Paso, First Lt. Joseph Pepe on New Year's Eve 1950, and they were married August 4, 1951 at Fort Sill, Oklahoma.

After traveling the world as a devoted military wife with three children, Col. and Mrs. Pepe returned to El Paso in 1968. Col. Pepe taught Ruth the game of bridge when they started dating, which was a lifelong passion, and she attained Silver Life Master status. She was president of ACBL El Paso Unit 159 for four years, and a regional representative for many years. For years, she provided the weekly bridge column published in El Paso Inc. Ruth was also an active member in El Paso society, serving on many boards and military associations. She cherished the many friends she made as part of the bridge community and as a military wife.

She is survived by her loving husband of 63 years, Colonel Joseph P. Pepe, United States Army Retired. Sons, Joseph Pepe, Jr. (Julie), Michael Pepe (Christi). Daughter, Theresa Pepe Callaghan (Gary), grandchildren, John Paul, Matthew, Rachel, Shannon, Joseph, Nick and Mike. Great grandchildren, Joel, Jady, Molly, Olivia and Jenevieve. Visitation will be held on Sunday, July 19, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. with Rosary/Vigil Service at 6:30 p.m. at FDA Martin Funeral Home Central. Graveside service will be held on Monday, July 20, 2015 at 1:00 p.m. at Fort Bliss National Cemetery. Services entrusted with FDA Martin Funeral Home Central 3839 Montana Avenue El Paso, Texas 79903.



Published in El Paso Times from July 19 to July 26, 2015  
(Also excerpts from El Paso, Inc.)



Long time El Paso resident **Frank Senkowsky** died peacefully at 2:30 p.m. on May 21, 2015, under the care of Hospice. He was the son of Peter and Leona Senkowsky of Chester, Pennsylvania. After his honorable discharge after his service in the Air Force in World War II, he and his wife, Florence moved to Mexico City, Mexico where he was involved in the development of the manganese industry. He subsequently moved the business to El Paso in 1960, where he ran it successfully until his retirement in the 1980's. He was a parishioner at Queen of Peace Catholic Church and Past President of the Serra Club. He is survived by his wife Florence, son Jon and daughter-in-law Donna, grandchildren Molly, Emily, Frances and Grace. Services are with Martin West on Resler after cremation and the memorial Mass will be Thursday, May 28, 2015, at 10:00 AM, at Queen of Peace followed by a reception. The family would like to extend their appreciation for exceptional care provided by Dr. Jose Silva, Dr. David Dobrin and also the entire staff of Montevista at Coronado. Private interment. Services entrusted to Martin Funeral Home West.







**We have lost another bridge player and friend. Leonard Pacha passed away Sunday, April 26th. Leonard has been hospitalized for all but five days since January this year. Thank God he is no longer suffering and is in much**

**better place. ([Obituary](#)) LEONARD  
PACHA**

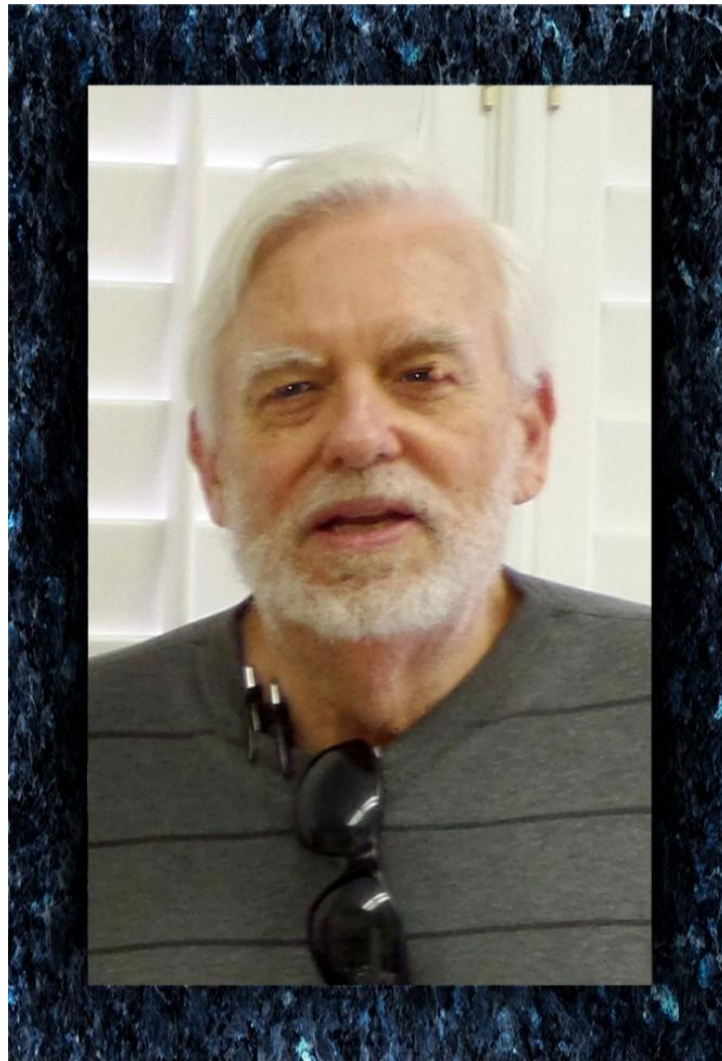
1931 - 2015 | Leonard Eugene Pacha, a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel and beloved father, grandfather, uncle and friend, passed away on 26 April 2015. He is survived by six brothers and sisters; his wife of 56 years, Joan; his daughter Laura; and his son Robert (Missy and children Anna Brooks, Caroline and Brabson) and many nieces and nephews, including Susan (Miguel and children Joseph, Alaina and Madelyn). Born in Marysville, Kansas in 1931, Leonard graduated from Kansas State University. In addition to his academic achievements, he was a wrestler and football player. In 1954, he entered the Army. A field artillery officer, he went on to become an Airborne Ranger. During his twenty-two year military career, he served in Korea, Germany, the Dominican Republic and Vietnam. He logged 37 jumps, and placed in numerous pistol marksmanship competitions. His last active duty assignment was at the Command and General Staff College in Leavenworth, KS. During his varied career, he earned three Bronze Stars, two Army Meritorious Service medals, an Army Commendation medal, and two unit citations among others. Upon retirement, he returned to El Paso with his family, where he received an MBA at UTEP. After serving as an accountant, he continued to volunteer at Fort Bliss. He also served St. Matthew's Catholic Church as an usher for over 30 years. After retirement, Leonard also became an avid bridge player, reaching Silver Life Master and serving as treasurer of the El Paso Duplicate Bridge Club. A Visitation will be held from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm with a Rosary at 6:00 pm on Sunday, May 3, 2015 at Sunset Funeral Home-West, 480 North Resler, El Paso, Texas 79912. Funeral Mass will be held at 1:00 pm on Monday, May 4, 2015 at St. Matthew's Catholic Church, 400 West Sunset Road, El Paso, Texas 79922. Interment will be at the Fort Bliss National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be made to the Wounded Warrior Fund, the American Diabetes Association or Catholic Charities. Services entrusted to Sunset Funeral Home-West. Please visit our online register book at [www.sunsetfuneralhome.com](http://www.sunsetfuneralhome.com)



Billie Mitchell's husband [Leo](#) passed away at age 89 on April 18, 2015. Billie has been a long time teammate of Gerald

Georges and Bob Esch. **Leo Steward Mitchell** (1925 -2015) Services are scheduled for Leo Steward Mitchell who died on April 18, 2015 in Lubbock, Texas at the age of 89. He is survived by his wife of 66 years Billie Pace Mitchell, son Dennis (wife Peggy) of Houston, daughter Jeannine Mueller (husband Chris) of Lubbock; sister Mary Olive Walker of Irving, Texas; seven grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son Mark Steward Mitchell and brother Donald Mitchell. Leo was born September 12, 1925 in Woodriver, Illinois to A. Steward and Mary Alice (Johnson) Mitchell. He graduated from Deer Park High School and enrolled at the University of Texas Austin. In 1944 he was inducted into the U.S. Army, serving as a combat infantryman in Europe. He was awarded the Bronze Star for heroic achievement. After the war he attended the University of Houston and graduated with honors with a B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering. He joined Shell Oil Company and held numerous positions in Engineering and Operations in Louisiana and Texas. He was highly respected in the field of Natural Gas Processing. In 1986 Leo and Billie retired to Ruidoso, New Mexico where he loved to golf and ski with friends and family. He was active in the Lions Club,

he Lincoln County Community Theater and The Barbershop Harmony Society. In 2011 Leo and Billie moved to Lubbock where he continued to be active in the Lions and Barbershop singing. Among his many interests were sailing, swimming and water volleyball. Throughout his long and active life, spending time with family was his greatest joy. Visitation will be held at Resthaven Funeral Home on April 22, 2015 from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. The funeral service will be held at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church 1101 Slide Road, Lubbock, Texas on April 23, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow in Resthaven Memorial Park. The family would like to thank his caregiver Marylee and especially his hospice nurse Courtney. Condolences and online guestbook can be found at [www.resthavenfuneralhome.com](http://www.resthavenfuneralhome.com)



**On the morning of March 10, 2015, Scott Campbell did not show up for his game with Barbara Harrid at the bridge center. Barbara went to Scott's apartment and found his car was there but he was not answering the door. The police went in and found that he had passed away. Scott will be dearly missed.**

**A lovely memorial service was held at noon on Sunday, March 15th, at the bridge center. Barbara Harrid officiated and many of Scott's bridge and race track friends, and his cousin told heart-warming stories remembering our friend. Thanks to Barbara and to Bob Esch's poetry readings.**



**[Memories of friends from December 2013 to February 2015.](#)**

**Included in the above link are: Garey Hayden, Bob Lyons, Lillian Silverman, Barbara Clark, Martin Kern, Babs Paschich, Lorraine Stewart, Betty Manross, Geneva King, John McLaughlin, Terry O'Donnell, John Bowden, and Addie Rider**