



## Tykie Theofilos

June 14, 1926 - December 24, 2017

Tykie Theofilos died in his sleep on Christmas Eve day, Sunday, December 24, 2017 in Venice, Florida at the age of 91 after a short illness. Tykie was a cherished husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, veteran of the United States Navy, musician, philanthropist, a gentleman, and true "gentle man". He was a man of faith whose actions demonstrated his Christian values and beliefs.

Tykie was born on June 14, 1926 in Kaminia, Sparta, Greece Kostas Theofilos and Helen (Karvouni) Theofilos. He immigrated to the United States as a young child with his family and was raised in Farrell, Pennsylvania. He attended Farrell High School where he proudly served as the drum major in the marching band for three (3) years until he graduated in 1944. He won All State Band in 1943.

Tykie was a proud veteran of the United States Navy. He enlisted in March 1944 and served (2 years, 2 months, and 22 days) as a Storekeeper Second Class. He served in the Admiralty Islands, South Pacific Ocean until his honorable discharge in 1946. Tykie then attended Westminster College in New Wilmington, Pennsylvania where he earned a Bachelor's degree.

Tykie married Chrysoula (Trahanis) in Warren, Ohio on June 25, 1950. Chrysoula is originally from Warren, Ohio, and currently lives in Venice,

Florida. They happily retired and moved to Venice, Florida in 2004. He was an avid golfer and proudly hit a hole-in-one on May 19, 2014. Tykie worked with New York Life Insurance Company for forty years from 1965 to 1995.

He is survived by three (3) sons; Dino of Venice, Florida, Georgio and his wife Maria (Ristas) of Austintown, Ohio, and Yanni of Atlanta, Georgia. Tykie is also survived by four (4) grandsons, Peter and his wife (Brittany), George and his wife (Barbara), Tykie, and James Theofilos; and four (4) great grandchildren, Connor, Hannah, Andrew, and Morgan.

In 1963, Tykie founded and led "Tykie and the Grecian Keys," one of the most popular and well-known Greek bands in America. He played the bouzouki with a humble pride and is considered a legend in the circle of Greek musicians and cultural historians. Tykie's sons Dino, Georgio and Yanni joined the band creating wonderful memories for tens of thousands of fans that followed the band throughout the years. The band was often referred to as the "Greek Osmond Brothers" or "Greek Jackson Five" entertaining Greeks and non-Greeks around the USA, Canada, and the Caribbean for over forty years. He recorded six (6) records and CDs of Greek dance music. Tykie and his family entertained people at their weddings who had children and then played at their children's and grandchildren's weddings. His son, Georgio continues "The Fabululous Grecian Keys" legacy.

Tykie had a witty sense of humor, was a proud Greek-American, family-oriented, musician who was kind, honest and fair. His sense of humor was sharp as he would joke with his family, friends, and even strangers with whom he would meet in public. He maintained a list of short jokes, keeping it close at-hand and always ready to entertain anyone who would listen. He found humor in most anything and had a wonderful and positive outlook throughout his blessed life.

He was a proud Greek immigrant who valued his adopted American home and citizenship. He proudly flew the American flag daily at his home in Ohio and Florida. Tykie was a one-woman man since the day married Chrysoula in 1950. Tykie and Chrysoula worked hard to support and raise their three sons and set a good example of Christian values.

Tykie and his wife Chrysoula sponsored and supported many organizations and children in orphanages from underprivileged and improvised countries around the world. In lieu of flowers, the Theofilos family is requesting donations to any of the following organizations on behalf of Tykie:

1. The Yatima Group Trust Fund, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania (<http://www.yatimagroup-trustfund.co.tz/index.html> )

Yatima Group Trust Fund (YGTF) is dedicated to improving the well-being of disadvantaged children whose legal rights have been deprived by the action of unacceptable forms of violation of child rights, isolations, discriminations, sexual abuse, divorce, diseases such as HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB), and malaria, etc. YGTF works on long-term strategies to take full parental responsibility of these children by providing medical care, food, education, clothing, bedding, and shelter.

2. The T.B.H. Private Medical Centre, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe (<https://www.facebook.com/thbprivatehospital>)

The T.B.H. Private Medical Centre is a small, rural-based hospital, community health center, and medical and dental clinic that serves a local population of 33,000 underprivileged and underserved infants, children, and adults with acute injuries and ailments, chronic diseases associated with drinking contaminated water and consuming unsanitary foods, communicable and vector-borne diseases, pre-natal needs, maternal and child health issues, and

dental services for children and adults. Despite the very limited infrastructure, staff, equipment, and supplies, they stay open 24/7/365 and do not turn away anyone in need of health care services.

### 3. Shriners Hospital for Children ([www.lovetotherescue.org](http://www.lovetotherescue.org))

Shriners Hospitals for Children's mission is to provide the highest quality care to children with neuromusculoskeletal conditions, burn injuries and other special healthcare needs within a compassionate, family-centered and collaborative care environment; provide for the education of physicians and other healthcare professionals; and conduct research to discover new knowledge that improves the quality of care and quality of life of children and families. This mission is carried out without regard to race, color, creed, sex or sect, disability, national origin, or ability of a patient or family to pay. Through the generosity of donors from around the world, Shriners Hospitals for Children has helped more than 1.3 million children reach their potential and lead more fulfilling lives, regardless of the families' ability to pay.

Calling hours will be at 10-11:00 a.m., Friday, December 29 immediately followed by funeral services at 11:00 a.m. at Saint Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church 429 High Street, Warren, Ohio, 44481.

The Theofilos family thanks Tykie's friends and relatives for being part of his life and supporting the charitable causes he had close to his heart.

# Tribute Wall

MK

“ *Dear Dino and Family,*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*I will miss your Father and am honored to have known him. He was a kind man and always had a hint of humor to make me smile.*

*Prayerfully,*

*Mitchell & Family*

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**Mitchell Kelln** - December 30, 2017 at 12:00 AM

DL

“ *Dino and family,*

*Our thoughts and prayers are with you.*

*We are very thankful that we had the oppertunity to meet your father and the pleasure of getting to know him. In the few years we did know him, it was obvious that his heart was large and that he was a loving husband, father, and grand father. He will be missed by many and leaves behind a legacy and lives within all who knew him.*

*Peace and God Bless you all.*

*Donna & Jack*

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**Donna Lennon** - December 27, 2017 at 12:00 AM

GB

“ *My deepest condolences Dino and your whole family. Your father was a magnificent musician and a wonderful man. He made a difference and will be deeply missed I know. RIP Tykie.*

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**Gary Brey** - December 26, 2017 at 12:00 AM