

## George Drake

February 14, 1944 - April 6, 2024

George Drake, 80, passed away at home surrounded by his family on April 6th. He had suffered from ALS for over 2 years. George was born in New York City, to George and Kay Drake of Smyrna, Greece on February 14, 1944.

George is survived by his wife, Diane, and their four children. Two sons, George & Danielle Drake and Michael & Sue Drake and his two stepdaughters, Katherine Cassese and Karen Grant. He is also survived by his four grandsons, Christian and Nicholas Drake and Austin and Brandon Cassese. George loved his grandsons with a passion. George is also survived by his sister Marian Drake of Florida and was predeceased by his sister, Lillian Lewis of New Jersey.

George was a leader in his field of Corporate Services and held various positions starting at American Can Company, Primerica, Travelers Group, Smith Barney and eventually retiring from Morgan Stanley as Managing Director. He was instrumental in the design and construction of 745 Seventh Ave. in NYC and the purchase, re-creation, and renovation at 2000 Westchester Ave. in Harrison NY.

Over the years George developed life-long relationships/friendships in the industry. He was known for mentoring them on to higher positions or encouraging and enabling them to start their own businesses. George

mentored everyone he came in contact with, up to and including the nurses that cared for him during his illness.

George was an avid boater and loved to fish. He enjoyed spending his time on the Long Island sound with his friends and family. He even dabbled in traveling cross-country assisting his wife Diane in her collectible doll business.

A Memorial service will be held on Sunday, April 28th from 1-5pm at Bosak Funeral Home, 453 Shippan Ave, Stamford, CT.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to ALS United CT.

To express condolences for the family online, please visit the family guestbook at [www.bosakfuneralhome.com](http://www.bosakfuneralhome.com) or [www.facebook.com/bosakfuneralhome](http://www.facebook.com/bosakfuneralhome)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

APR 28. 1:00 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Bosak Funeral Home & Cremation  
453 Shippan Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06902

## Prayer Service

APR 28. 4:00 PM (ET)

Bosak Funeral Home & Cremation  
453 Shippan Avenue  
Stamford, CT 06902

# Tribute Wall

“ *Brian Drum*

*Forty some odd years ago ...it was a little before 7 am...I do not remember the exact day...but I do remember...like it was yesterday the day George Drake and I met. I spent over two hours with George. He moved me. He was understated. On first blush he was missing some of the Academic credentials for the position for which we were recruiting. On first blush I had trouble comprehending the tremendous workload he was responsible for in his current job. His management style was completely unique to me. One of Drum Associates' strong suites was Corporate Services and we had completed a myriad of successful searches. We had an extremely deep file of professionals with Corporate Services background. Having said that, I had never met someone like George in this role. George was unique.*

*Morgan Stanley retained Drum Associates...specifically by Elaine La Roche...to identify a leader for their newly formed Corporate Services Division. I met Elaine at 6 PM on a Friday evening. Elaine was looking for an agent of change and someone to lead the consolidation of bringing together all the non-Investment Banking services. The following Tuesday she called and queried why I had not referred any prospective candidates. Working for Elaine was not an easy task...she was well known as an extremely demanding person and quite mercurial. Over the next week I reviewed and interviewed a plethora of Corporate Services executives for this position. By the end of the next week, I referred seven candidates to her. By the end of that day, she and the consultant advising her on this specific search rejected all seven candidates. George Drake was one of those rejected candidates.*

*Elaine summoned me to her office. The consultant who I had known for several years prior gave me a heads up that we might be taken off the search. Elaine and I met in the midafternoon. She was blunt...Drum Associates was off the case, and then started to negotiate what our final compensation would be. For some reason in the middle of that discussion...she asked me who would I hire if I*

were in her position. I said the person that just stood out in my mind was a person she would not hire because he lacked the right educational credentials...so I told her I thought it was moot point. She then pressed again...without hesitation...I said George Drake. Surprisingly...she asked me "Why?" My answer to her was quite direct, albeit a metaphor. "If George Drake was on an island with only sand...he would make something of it." Elaine reaction to me was..." Get George Drake into my office tomorrow." George Drake met with Elaine La Roche the very next day...Elaine offered the job to George at that meeting. George was the only candidate she saw for this position.

George Drake was a respected and remarkably successful and a pragmatic leader. George always let anyone, and everyone speak their mind...he was an incredible listener; however, George always got to the quick of it...the conclusion...and the action to be taken...no bluster...made all feel they contributed to the final result and actions to be taken.

George had an abundance of common sense. He used this attribute as he lived his life. George knew how to make sense out of nonsense. Needless to say, George had a wealth of smarts.

Our relationship continued from the day I met George...until the day he died. He was my dear friend. He did what he could to fight (or put up with) ALS.

George was a "mensch"!

George Drake will always be part of my being ...and so many others.

Fair well to my longtime friend.

Brian Drum

SM

“ George , Drakie to the Jolas family how you got that name we will never know, so many wonderful memories together especially from Bradley Beach always joking around with that big smile....that's how I will remember you  
I only wish I got to see you more ...Our deepest sympathy may you Rest in heavenly Peace 🙏

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**Stella A Muscarella** - April 28, 2024 at 10:58 AM

“ Remembering the Extraordinary George,

*I first encountered George in 1991 at Smith Barney, where he occupied a prestigious corner office, making brief appearances once or twice a week. I was initially unaware of his identity, but his formidable presence left a lasting impression. In 1993, George approached me for assistance with an IT project, which we successfully accomplished together. Then, in the latter half of 1995, he visited my office to inform me of his departure from Smith Barney. He kindly inquired if I'd be interested in working for him should a better opportunity arise. Naturally, I agreed.*

*Later that year, I received a call from George inviting me to an early breakfast at Penn Station, where he shared news of his new position at Morgan Stanley, an elite investment bank. During our conversation, he declared, "I will send you traveling all over the world." And he stayed true to his word. Over time, George became more than just a colleague; he evolved into a cherished friend, mentor, and trusted advisor. I sought his counsel before making any significant life decisions.*

*George possessed a rare blend of a kind heart and assertiveness, complemented by a delightful sense of humor. Once, I approached him to share my son's academic achievements, proudly proclaiming, "The kid is intelligent." Without missing a beat, George humorously quipped, "It must be from the mother's side." On another occasion, when I informed him that my brain MRI results showed nothing concerning, he swiftly retorted, "I could have told you that there is nothing up there."*

*But when I entered George's office admitting, "I have a problem," his demeanor shifted. With a solemn and commanding tone, he replied, "I pay you to bring me solutions, not problems." I left his office, silently reflecting on his words. Our camaraderie extended beyond the workplace as well. After wrapping up an intense series of meetings in Zurich, we spent the entire flight back to New York*

*discussing business and life, forging an even deeper bond.*

*George's wisdom transcended his words, shaping his actions and character as well. Here are just a few of the invaluable life lessons I learned from him:*

- 1. He epitomized the essence of a true gentleman.*
- 2. His approach to life was balanced and considered.*
- 3. He maintained an unwavering ability to find positivity amidst challenges.*
- 4. Honesty and transparency were his hallmarks.*
- 5. His pragmatic nature was inspiring.*
- 6. He was a skilled negotiator*
- 7. He commanded respect with ease.*
- 8. Family and friends held immense value in his life.*
- 9. He showed concern.*
- 10. He acted with his brain, but always added his heart to his decisions as well.*
- 11. George's street-smarts were undeniable.*

*George genuinely cared. He took a sincere interest in my life, ensuring my well-being mattered to him. His concern for others was a reflection of his selflessness and genuine kindness. The impact he had on my life serves as a testament to his remarkable character and the value he placed on the lives of those around him.*

*Your memory endures in the lives of those you've touched, and I'm eternally grateful for your presence in mine. With profound love and admiration, I bid farewell to a cherished friend and mentor. You will be deeply missed.*

*Joe*

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**Joe Santos** - April 27, 2024 at 06:34 PM

JS

“ From Jamie Dimon:

*Joe – thanks for your note. I’m sorry to hear about the loss of George. He certainly did have a positive impact on so many during his life. We will all remember him fondly and respectfully.*

*All my best,  
Jamie*

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**Joe Santos** - April 27, 2024 at 05:38 PM

JS

“ 1 file added to the album Joe Santos



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**Joe Santos** - April 23, 2024 at 06:43 PM

VM

“ George was enthusiastically supportive of my entrepreneurial venture. He advised me and cheered me on along the way. I will miss his wisdom, humor, and practical approach to everything. Rest in peace, my friend.



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**Vic Macchio** - April 16, 2024 at 08:18 AM


CJ

“ It saddened me to hear that such a great man had suffered from a horrible disease of ALS. Growing up our family called him " Drakie"! He has left us with the BEST memories of his playfulness, his kindness, his laugh, his smile with perfect teeth. As kid's he was this tall dark, handsome guy who used to wrestle with my father on the beach. Or tossed us around in the sand. Drakie will be Missed!  
Constance Jolas

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Constance jolas-bailey - April 15, 2024 at 04:52 PM

PD

“ George was one of the most genuine men I had the honor of meeting. Always made time to listen, give advice and just have a few laughs no matter how busy he was. He had a brilliant mind and loved reading his Facebook posts. We will miss him terribly, rest well George 

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Pat O Donnell - April 15, 2024 at 12:20 PM

AN

“ Our hearts go out to you for the loss of George, he was a true gentleman. May he rest in peace. Pat and Ann O Donnell

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Ann - April 15, 2024 at 04:20 AM

JP

“ Remembering my dear friend George... Our journey began at Morgan Stanley in 1997, where he served as my boss and mentor. Over time, our professional connection deepened into a cherished friendship. Memories flood my mind, from our Sydney Harbor Bridge climb to his many stories, filled with humor and wisdom; but especially the days spent on his boat, where George patiently taught my boys to fish and let Jonny take the helm as we cruised. Even after his retirement, George remained a beacon of wisdom and warmth, guiding me through life's twists and turns. Beyond his role as an innovative senior manager, George was a man of profound kindness and sharp intellect. His impact on my life and career is immeasurable, and I will forever miss his friendship and guidance. Rest in peace, George.

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**Jeff Pellet** - April 13, 2024 at 02:27 PM

JP

“ 3 files added to the album Memories of George



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**Jeff Pellet** - April 12, 2024 at 04:50 PM

DS

“ *May you be at peace uncle George! It's been many years since we seen each other but you always held a special spot in my heart! At times you were my hero who was there when I needed you next door to help with the craziness! I never got the chance to say thanks but I have fond memories of good times driving to Carvel the boys and me in your little mg convertible! Then you driving Rich and me in your cadillac for our wedding! Lots of good times! May you be out of pain and no more suffering! Thanks for the memories rest in peace!*

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**Donna scrivani** - April 11, 2024 at 09:15 PM

ET

“ *In the movie "IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE" the angel CLARENCE tells GEORGE "NO MAN IS A FAILURE WHO HAS FRIENDS". My cousin is one of the most successful people I know. Every time a bell rings an angel gets his wings. I hope every one rings a bell for my cousin "BIG G"! I will. I'll always know how lucky I am to have shared his world. Love you cuz, ELIAS*

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**Elias Tsaldaris** - April 11, 2024 at 05:14 PM

JS

“ *3 files added to the album Joe Santos*



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**Joe Santos** - April 11, 2024 at 04:51 PM