Our dad was a storyteller. One of his favorite things to do was sitting around with family and telling stories about growing up in Pittsburgh or his time as a salesman. We always got such a kick out of the Slovak names and foods from his childhood, and he had so many stories about his travel around the country and the world. (Let’s be real, some of the stories were good enough that he told them over and over again, so we got to know them very well.)

Our dad was the life of the party. It is no surprise to anyone who knew him that he was a people person. He gained energy from being with friends and family. He had A LOT of friends and was a friend to all. He was one of the founders of the Saturday Studskies at Pelican Pointe- a fun group of men who played golf together each week. What started as a foursome quickly grew, and the Studskies are still growing strong today.

Our dad was a sharp dresser and looking good was in his DNA. He would be so pleased to see everyone all dressed up today. His long career in the men’s apparel industry took him and our family to Chicago, Rochester, Miami, Atlanta and New York City. Although styles have changed over the years, he always made friends and looked good doing it no matter where he went.

Our dad was a singer. Whether it was St. Gabriel’s grade school choir, high school performances, church choir, the Silver Foxes at the Venice Theater, the Off-Key Chorale at Neuro Challenge or his beloved Doo Pointers, he loved to sing. We used to get embarrassed when he would sing the harmony in our ears at church, but music definitely brought him joy.

Our dad was a loyal partner and a proud father and grandfather. His most recent celebration was being married to our amazing mom for 50 years. His heart was full when talking about his kids and grandkids and our accomplishments. He enjoyed traveling to Texas and Oregon whenever he could spend time with us.

Our dad was a fighter. He faced adversity with dignity and courage. Despite a very difficult illness, he maintained his positive attitude to the very end. This is the legacy he left for all who knew him, especially his grandchildren who loved to spend time with “Pap”. We look forward to all the ways that his positive outlook on life will show up in them.

Thank you so much for helping us celebrate our dad. You made his life richer, and we hope that he enriched yours.

Carrie and Chris