



Gregory Avdakov

November 14, 1940 - June 3, 2019

Gregory Avdakov of Glen Dale, WV passed away June 3, 2019 in Columbus, Ohio.

He was born on November 14, 1940 in Svilajnac, Serbia to Alexis and Branislava (Petrovic) Avdakov.

His father, a native of Russia, was a veteran of World War I who fought against the Communists in the Russian Revolution and became a refugee in Serbia, where he met and married Greg's mother. After fighting in World War II, he again became a refugee in a displaced persons camp in Austria. He immigrated to the United States in 1952 and was followed by his wife and son in 1953. They settled in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Although he knew no English when he came to the U.S. at age 13, Greg quickly learned the language and excelled in school.

He graduated third in his class from South Side High School in Ft. Wayne in 1959, and went on to receive a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Purdue University. While at Purdue, he met the love of his life, Esther Matz, whom he married on February 4, 1965.

The couple came to the Ohio Valley in 1965, where Greg was employed at Wheeling Steel's Follansbee coke plant. He then worked at Ormet from 1968 until his retirement in 1996. The Avdakovs moved to Glen Dale in 1971, where Greg resided until he passed.

As an immigrant from a Communist country, he loved America, was extremely patriotic, and served as a volunteer at the polls on Election Day for several

years.

Greg loved to travel, and he and Esther visited many countries including his hometown in Serbia, several countries in Europe, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, and nearly all the U.S. states, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Greg was a long-time board member of the Ohio Valley Credit Union, and he volunteered at the Soup Kitchen in Wheeling. He was a certified Master Gardener.

In particular, he was devoted to his Orthodox Christian faith. He was a longtime member and leader at St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church in Moundsville, where he served on the church council for several decades. He also served the church as a Reader for 45 years.

He graduated from the Late Vocation Diaconate program of the Archdiocese of Pittsburgh and Western Pennsylvania (APWP); which enabled him to serve at the rank of Subdeacon. He also served as Treasurer and Member of the Archdiocesan Council of the APWP for many years, retiring in 2015.

He is survived by his wife Esther, sons Steven and Dave (Laura), and grandchildren Alex, Elise, Sarah, and Alec.

Family will receive friends on Sunday from 2-5pm at Grisell Funeral Home & Crematory, 400 Jefferson Ave., Moundsville where Parastas Service will be held at 4pm.

Blessing Service will be held Monday at 9:30 am at the funeral home, followed by Orthodox Service being held at 10am at St. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Moundsville with Fr. William Evansky and Fr. John Kocha as celebrants.

Interment in Riverview Cemetery, Moundsville.

Donations are welcome to be made in Greg's name to the International Orthodox Christian Charities, 110 West Road, Suite 360 , Baltimore, MD 21204.

Cemetery Details

Riverview Cemetery

Round Bottom Hill Rd.
Moundsville, WV

Previous Events

Visitation

JUN **9**. 2:00 PM - 5:00 PM (ET)

Grisell Crematory
Moundsville, WV

Funeral Service

JUN **10**. 10:00 AM (ET)

St. Peter & Paul Orthodox Church
Moundsville, WV

Tribute Wall



“ Dear Esther,

I am so happy to have met your husband, Greg, when you visited us in Englewood some years ago. He seemed to be a perfect match for you and I was honored that you took the time to see us.

Please accept our sincere sympathy and our love which will follow you. I will be keeping you and your family in prayer.

*Love in DZ,
Janet Adams Lee*

Janet Lee - June 09, 2019 at 06:47 PM



“ 201 files added to the album LifeTributes



Grisell Funeral Homes - June 09, 2019 at 02:18 PM

SS

“ *Esther, Steve and Dave, so sorry to hear about Greg. He was such a fine gentleman. I enjoyed so much working along with him during our John Marshall Basketball boosters days. Harriet and I talked about you with fond memories many, many times. God bless.*

Sandy Schafer.

Sandy Schafer - June 08, 2019 at 06:38 PM

PW

“ *Dear Esther, Steve and Dave,
Greg was an extremely intelligent, forthright, kind and all-around wonderful man with an exemplary moral character. He was very proud of each of you and spoke often to many of your activities and successes. He will be sorely missed. Prayers for your peace and comfort. “Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal “* *Patty Wylie*

Patricia Wylie - June 08, 2019 at 03:47 PM

LM

“ *Love & Sympathy, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Miami purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Gregory Avdakov.*



Love & Sympathy, Ss. Peter & Paul Church, Miami - June 08, 2019 at 11:55 AM

GK

“ I'm sorry that I never got to meet Mr. Advakov. Judging by Steve & his work, and meeting Mrs. Advakov, I know I missed a wonderful man. My sincerest sympathy to all of the family. Prayers from Ginger Kabala & Steve's acquaintances in South Wheeling.

Ginger Kabala - June 07, 2019 at 11:06 PM

SH

“ It was always a joy and blessing when Greg and Ester came to our parish in Miami, FL for a visit. Greg would jump in and help whenever needed. He saw what had to be done and did it. He certainly was an excellent example of a faithful Orthodox Christian. May his Memory be Eternal. Susan Homyk and the members of SS. Peter and Paul Orthodox Church, Miami.

Susan Homyk - June 07, 2019 at 10:41 PM

SH

“ I was a welder that worked with Greg for many years . He was one of the gang in our shop , I would ask him about his life over seas and found it very interesting . Made some cabinet door for him once , Greg was a friend and a good man Sam Howard

Sam Howard - June 07, 2019 at 10:05 AM

YF

“ Your St. Peter & Paul Family purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Gregory Avdakov.



Your St. Peter & Paul Family - June 07, 2019 at 09:58 AM

EP

“ I know what a special man your father must have been, Steve, from your many stories of him. My thoughts are with you, your mom, Elise and Alec at this sad time. A big hug to you all. Elaine Paris

Elaine Paris - June 07, 2019 at 09:48 AM

JM

“ So sorry to hear of Greg's passing. He was a fine man who raised a fantastic family. Condolences.

Joe Myers - June 06, 2019 at 05:54 PM

CG

“ Centennial Preservation Group purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Gregory Avdakov.



Centennial Preservation Group - June 06, 2019 at 04:52 PM



“ Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Gregory Avdakov.



June 06, 2019 at 01:20 PM

MC

“ Mary H Crockett purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Gregory Avdakov.



Mary H Crockett - June 06, 2019 at 11:22 AM

MC

“ In my last conversation in May, 2019 with Mr. Avdakov, he spoke of his birthplace, Svilajnac, Serbia, as “the city of silk.” Pondering this conversation, I read Ezekiel 16:10, 13, “I clothed thee with broidered work, and shod thee with badger, and I girded thee with fine linen, and covered thee with silk; thus wast thou decked with gold and silver, and thy garments were of fine linen and silk and broidered work.” Apparently, “the truths of the ancient church seem to describe broidered work as signified truths that are a matter of memory-knowledge; by fine linen, natural truths; and by silk, spiritual truths.” While I only met him on two occasions, I’ve seen his life work through his wife and sons, his son’s wives and grandchildren. From them, I am sure that Gregory Avdakov, through his lifetime of service to God, to his wife, to his family, to his church and to his beloved adopted country, mastered the ancient truths. My husband and I are praying for the Avdakov family, that they may find peace and comfort in knowing that Gregory Avdakov is now wrapped lovingly in the silk of his birthplace-- resplendent before his maker. With deepest sympathy and comfort, Mary and Michael Crockett

Mary H Crockett - June 06, 2019 at 11:14 AM

SA

Mary, that was beautiful- thank you!!

Steve Avdakov - June 06, 2019 at 03:34 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet was purchased for the family of Gregory Avdakov.*



June 06, 2019 at 10:08 AM



“ *Sending my deepest condolences during this difficult time. May all your good memories help to ease your pain.*

Jody Drake - June 06, 2019 at 09:18 AM



“ *So sorry Steve and Dave prayers for all*

Debbie and Tim Randolph

debbie randolph - June 06, 2019 at 05:45 AM



“ *Prayers to his family. Mr. Avdakov always called when the church was selling nut rolls. A really nice person to talk with when picking up our orders.*

Diana Magers - June 05, 2019 at 08:49 PM



I knew Mr. Greg from the nut roll sales at his church. He was a true gentleman.

Mary Krizan - June 06, 2019 at 12:25 PM

GP

My sympathy to Greg's family! I fondly recall his reaction when he heard me present Abraham Lincoln while at Ludington! Another time I recall (not so fondly) was when Greg and I both got very "seasick" while on a fishing trip in Lake Michigan! He was a great guy!! Jerry Payn

Gerald (Jerry) Payn - June 06, 2019 at 04:38 PM