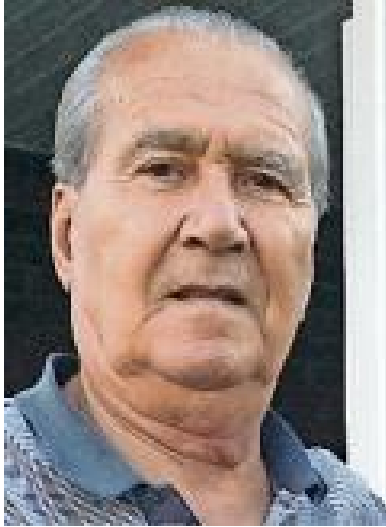


## OBITUARY



Vagios "Van" Paftinos, 84, of Hackettstown, NJ, passed away peacefully with his wife and children by his side on August 24, 2017. Van was a well-respected and generous man who will be sorely missed by his family and all that knew him. Van was born on Oct. 10, 1932, in Romanou, Lemnos, Greece to the late Panayiotis and Androniki Paftinos. Van came to the United States or as he liked to refer to it, "the best country in the world," owing his boat fare to his sister at age 18. He served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Fairbanks, Alaska, from 1955 to 1957 as a tank mechanic. After his honorable discharge, he worked as a dishwasher and whatever other work he could find until he met someone that was willing to teach him the construction trade. That started a fire in him that was never extinguished. He saved every penny he earned to buy a Stewart's Root Beer in Bloomfield, NJ. He used the money earned from Stewart's to fuel his love for construction and real estate. He was able to purchase and renovate a couple of multifamily homes before deciding to go back to Greece in 1968 for vacation. He

married Ann Tsanakos in January 1969 and from there, they formed a dynamic partnership that lasted 48 years. Together, Van and Ann instilled and passed along a strong work ethic and values to their children. Van always said to his children that people who work hard always get rewarded. Van heard about Leo's in this little town of Hackettstown far out in the country from a customer of Stewart's. He came and scoped it out and thought it would be the perfect place to raise his family and pursue his love of construction so he sold everything he owned and came to Hackettstown. While Ann ran Leo's, Van would buy property, unbeknownst to her, and plot his next project. He had great respect for his community and especially the elderly. His desire to help the elderly is the reason that most of his buildings are age-restricted for purposes of making a nice living environment for them. Van's signature was a classic brick building because Van always wanted the best and brick was the strongest. Van passed his love of construction to his children, Peter and Christina, who strive to continue his legacy. He is survived by his loving wife of 48 years, Ann Paftinos, his son, Peter Paftinos and his wife, Linda; his daughter, Jane Paftinos, and her husband, Demetrios; his daughter, Christina, and her husband, Anastasios; and seven grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, John Paftinos, and his many nieces and nephews. Family and friends may pay their respects on Monday, Aug. 28, 2017, from 4 to 8 at Cochran Funeral Home, 905 High Street, Hackettstown, NJ 07840. Funeral service will take place at 11 a.m. on Aug. 29, 2017, at St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Andrew's Greek Orthodox Church, 1447 Sussex Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869 in honor of Van Paftinos. Cochran Funeral Home 905 High St. Hackettstown, NJ 07840 (908) 852-3361

The Express Times: August 28 to 29, 2017

NAME: Paftinos, Vagios

DATE OF DEATH: August 24, 2017