



Pedro Mandoki

December 8, 1941 - February 1, 2019

Pedro Mandoki, 77, of Gulf Shores, Alabama, passed away on February 1, 2019, after a short illness. Pedro was born in Budapest Hungary on December 8, 1941. After escaping the Nazi occupation, Pedro and his mother fled to Mexico, where he learned the hospitality business working with his mother and uncle in the hotel they owned in Cuernavaca, Mexico. At 16, he took over the management of the hotel upon his mother's death. After receiving his degree in pre-med from the University of Morelos, Pedro married, had two children, and decided to move to the United States. In 1964, he arrived in New Orleans, Louisiana with his family, five suitcases, and \$175. He got a job at the Royal Orleans hotel as a captain in the dining room and went on to management positions with the Royal Orleans Hotel, Mayflower Hotel in Washington, DC, and Callaway Gardens Resort in Pine Mountain, Georgia to name a few. In 1977, he became a citizen of the United States.

In 1976, Pedro took over the management and created Miracle Mile Resort in Panama City Beach, Florida. He began managing Gulf Shores Plantation in Gulf Shores, Alabama in 1986, with his company that would become Plantation Resort Management. He became a Gulf Shores resident in 1988. Since that time, he has continued his management of Gulf Shores Plantation, operating as Mandoki Hospitality, Inc. since 2005.

Serving on multiple boards and guest lecturing at various universities, Pedro was the recipient of the 2005 Thomas Carvel Immigrant Entrepreneur Award by the National Immigration Forum. Also in 2005, he was inaugurated as the

Chairman of the American Hotel and Lodging Association. Prior to that, he served as President of both the Florida and Alabama Hotel and Lodging Associations. Pedro was the founding chairman of the Alabama Gulf Coast Convention and Visitors Bureau. In 2010, he was awarded one of the top honors of the American Hotel & Lodging Association, the Lawson Odde Award. He received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Alabama Tourism Department in August 2017. He was the third recipient of this award. In December 2018, he was awarded the Lifetime Achievement award from Gulf Shores and Orange Beach Tourism. The same evening, an announcement was made that the boardroom would now be known as the Pedro & Nora Mandoki boardroom. Throughout his career, he was the recipient of countless awards in the hospitality industry and mentored many of its current leaders.

Pedro is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Nora Durham Mandoki, as well as his four daughters, Margarita (Jim) McClain, Kati (Vincent) Arata, Marcia (Derek) Chapman, Jessica (Jeremy) Cook., and his grandchildren, Brantley, Bret, Virginia, Ben, Peter, Ava, Sera, Josie, and Julian.

Memorial services will be held at Gulf Shores United Methodist Church, 1900 Gulf Shores Parkway, Gulf Shores, Alabama, on Thursday, February 7 at 1:00 PM, with a reception to follow at the church.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested that gifts be made to the Pedro Mandoki Scholarship Fund in Hospitality Management at Auburn University. Checks can be mailed to the Auburn University Foundation, Attn: Office of Gifts and Records, 317 South College Street, Auburn, Alabama 36849.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

FEB 7. 1:00 PM (CT)

Gulf Shores United Methodist Church
1900 Gulf Shores Parkway
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

Tribute Wall

JC

“ I began my hospitality career working with Pedro at Miracle Mile Resort in 1980. He was my mentor and more importantly he was my friend . I learned so much from him and he never gave up me. For over 26 years in the Hospitality Industry, he was my "go to guy" whenever I had a problem.

My family always enjoyed being around him because he was so much of a "people person". He was so proud of his family and their accomplishments.

I have so many good memories and stories.. I'm so glad I had an opportunity to work with him.

John Craig - February 07, 2019 at 01:50 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Pedro Mandoki.



February 07, 2019 at 08:27 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pedro Mandoki.



February 06, 2019 at 08:27 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Pedro Mandoki.*



February 05, 2019 at 11:30 PM



“ *I was so blessed to be able to meet and get to know Pedro. His legacy and impact on our Coastal Alabama area is amazing. I truly enjoyed my lunches with him and Nora! An amazing and humble person that I am just glad to have been able to know! My prayers are with Nora and the rest of his family. ~Laura Hancock*

Laura - February 05, 2019 at 09:16 PM



“ *Keith Overton & All of us at TradeWinds Resorts purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Pedro Mandoki.*



Keith Overton & All of us at TradeWinds Resorts - February 05, 2019 at 05:01 PM



“ *Pedro will never be forgotten in the vacation community. He has done so much in the industry. My mother and I both worked for him at the Plantation. He has earned the respect of many, that says a lot now days!! Nora, our hearts, love and prayers of comfort go out to you and the rest of the family.*

Nina Spicer - February 05, 2019 at 02:29 PM

TF

“ *The Wagatha Family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Pedro Mandoki.*



The Wagatha Family - February 05, 2019 at 01:33 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pedro Mandoki.*



February 04, 2019 at 09:52 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Pedro Mandoki.*



February 04, 2019 at 05:10 PM

CL

“ *Words could never convey how much we appreciate Mr. Mandoki. He was a steadfast supporter of our mission and his guidance will be sorely missed. Please know we are sending prayers of comfort and peace to Ms. Nora and the entire Mandoki family*

*Christin LeBoeuf
American Heart Association*

Christin LeBoeuf - February 04, 2019 at 04:11 PM

TR

“ Pedro left our Industry much better than he found it and will be sorely missed by all of us who had the honor to know him. He was the consummate professional, yet always had time for students and aspiring hospitality leaders. Tom Ruff

Tom Ruff - February 04, 2019 at 03:33 PM

MC

“ A consummate hotelier, industry leader and an inspiration to his peers. Mark Carrier

Mark Carrier - February 04, 2019 at 02:48 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Pedro Mandoki.



February 04, 2019 at 10:49 AM

SK

“ My heart goes out to Ms. Nora and his family. His accomplishments are amazing! He left his family and profession a great legacy. Shelby Kilpatrick



Shelby Kilpatrick - February 04, 2019 at 07:36 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Pedro Mandoki.*



February 03, 2019 at 07:49 PM



“ *I am so sorry to hear of Pedro's passing, but grateful for his patience, dedication, and forward thinking ideas which he gave to the condo owners of Gulf Shores Plantation. He will be sorely missed but forever remembered. My deepest sympathy to Nora, his wife, and his children for their loss. Janice Harrison*

Janice Harrison - February 03, 2019 at 06:48 PM



“ *Heartfelt condolences from Jim McManemon and family. Pedro contributed much to the industry, hotel associations and, most importantly, the people he touched. He will be missed.*

Jim McManemon - February 03, 2019 at 06:10 PM



“ *I count Pedro's daughter Magi as one of my dearest friends from my high school years (and beyond)! What a lovely man! Pedro was such a kind, easy going father to his daughters. I remember in the late 70s when we planned and threw a wild party at his home - all sorts of shenanigans going on with tons of teenagers dropping in on this impromptu event - and when he arrived home later he just dealt with it and didn't throw a fit. His love for his girls was so obvious and clear. Sending love to his family during this sad time..*

Lori Franklin - February 03, 2019 at 05:43 PM

VC

“ *Mr. Mandoki was an awesome boss and mentor. He had a heart of gold and was truly loved by all those who were associated with him. I am so blessed to have had the opportunity to work with him and I am so blessed to have shared a part of my life with him. What an awesome individual!!! God bless you Pedro!!*

valarie Compton - February 03, 2019 at 05:16 PM



“ *It was an honor to know Pedro. He was always willing to chat and listen to our concerns. Condolences, Nora, and to the family. He will be missed*
Sue and Les Halaszi

Susan Halaszi - February 03, 2019 at 01:35 PM



“ *Treasured Lilies Spray was purchased for the family of Pedro Mandoki.*



February 03, 2019 at 12:54 PM

MK

“ *Sorry to hear of his passing. I am very grateful to have known him.. what an amazing list of accomplishments and contributions! Sending you and your family prayers for peace! I know he will be missed!*
Mark & Marcie Kinsey

Marcie Carol Kinsey - February 03, 2019 at 10:47 AM

AH

“ My first job in the vacation rental industry was bartending at the Cabana at the Gulf Shores Plantation 25 years ago. Since then, like so many he employed and mentored, I've been fortunate enough to build an entire career in vacation rentals. I admired him, looked up to him, and was always amazed that he took the time to help me in building the magazine. And he did this for a multitude of individuals and local and national organizations, giving tirelessly and selflessly to any endeavor. What he did for hospitality and lodging is unparalleled, and his work to make vacation rentals a mainstream, accepted lodging option was groundbreaking and often went without notice. He is the only person--ever--who chaired the boards of both the AHLA and the VRMA! And outside of what he was doing nationally, he spent a ton of time locally to build tourism on Alabama's Gulf Coast. There are not words to describe what Pedro has done for all of us individually, for the Gulf Coast, for the vacation rental industry, and for hospitality as a whole. We all have big shoes to fill; but, Pedro, we learned so much from you and will apply the wisdom you so generously shared with us.

I promise that we will carry on what we have learned from him, and my prayers and love go out to Nora and the family.

Amy Hinote - February 03, 2019 at 01:01 AM

LS

“ My deepest condolences . I have few..but ALL very plesant memories of my cousin Pedro. My he rest in Peace. Linda Schlesinger. Israel.



Linda Schlesinger - February 02, 2019 at 08:35 PM

RW

“ *My condolences to you all.*

Roy Watkins - February 02, 2019 at 08:10 PM

BB

“ *We are so sorry to hear about Pedro. Our thoughts and prays are with you all. We always enjoyed talking to him at the VRMA conferences, always had a great story and smile.*

Billy and Carol Bernier



Billy and Carol Bernier - February 02, 2019 at 08:05 PM