



Chester "Chet" Carter

March 20, 1932 - May 18, 2026

*UPDATED with Mass information below.

Chester "Chet" Carter March 20, 1932 – May 18, 2026

Chester "Chet" Carter passed away peacefully on May 18, 2026, at the age of 94, after a long and remarkable life defined by professional achievement, tireless curiosity, and an adventurous spirit that carried him to the far corners of the world.

Born in Detroit on March 20, 1932, Chet would go on to build a life as expansive as the horizons he chased. A proud veteran of the United States Air Force during the Korean War era, he returned home to pursue what he considered his greatest professional foundation, a business degree from Wayne State University. He spoke of Wayne State with genuine affection throughout his life, crediting its rigorous education with the career that followed. He was a devoted member of the university's "Golden Alumni," a distinction reserved for graduates of more than 50 years, and remained connected to the institution he loved until the end.

That career took Chet to the highest levels of corporate America. As a compensation executive, he brought his expertise to some of the most recognized names in business, Vickers, Rockwell International, Bank of America, Security Pacific Bank, and Levi Strauss, and in doing so, traveled to

more than 85 countries across the globe. He continued his international travels until nearly the age of 92, a testament to the restless energy and genuine wonder that defined him.

While still in Michigan and raising his three daughters, Chet channeled his characteristic determination into one of his earliest and most ambitious projects: building a 22-foot sailboat entirely from scratch, a vessel that slept six. It was the kind of undertaking that set the tone for everything that would follow.

Chet's professional life eventually led him far from his Michigan roots, to Southern California, downtown San Francisco, and the broader Bay Area. In the wine country of Sonoma and Napa County, he undertook the complete restoration of an Italianate Victorian farmhouse in Petaluma, a labor of love that earned the property a coveted place on the Historical Registry, complete with a historical plaque, a distinction few restorations ever achieve. Ever the adventurer, Chet later traded the Bay Area for yet another chapter, relocating to Long Beach, Mississippi, where he settled just eight houses from the Gulf of Mexico, not far from where he had completed his Air Force training decades before. It was the kind of full-circle moment that seemed to follow him naturally through life.

That Long Beach home, so close to the water he loved, was taken from him entirely when Hurricane Katrina made landfall. The house was completely washed out to sea. In the wake of that loss, a gesture from his beloved alma mater became all the more meaningful: the Wayne State Alumni Association honored him with a replacement bachelor's degree, beautifully framed alongside an original watercolor of the campus, after his diploma was lost in the storm. It was a moment he cherished.

Those who met Chet rarely forgot him. He had a gift for conversation, drawing people in with his travel adventures, his sharp wit, and a memory that never

seemed to dim. He could recall a favorite bar or restaurant in nearly any major city on earth, and those who knew him learned quickly that if they tried to fact-check him, they would come up short. He was remarkably spot on. In his professional life, he was well regarded by colleagues across industries and known for investing in the people around him, mentoring many throughout his long career.

Chet is survived by his three daughters, from his late marriage to Patricia (Quatrine), Pamela (Tim) Haase, Gina (Quatrine) Carter-Ellis, and Christine Carter Conway, as well as many grandchildren. He is also survived by his brother, Thomas (Frances) Carter, and his sister, Isabelle (Edward) Goosen, and takes with him the joy of having been reunited with family in Michigan after Katrina, in his later years. He is further survived by several nieces and nephews, and a wide circle of extended family and friends.

Chet was preceded in death by his parents, Walter and Harriet Czepelewski; his brother, Lucius (Alda) Carter; and his sisters, Irene (Harrison) Waymouth and Virginia "Ginni" Chapel.

Arrangements are entrusted to Vermeulen-Sajewski Funeral Home, Plymouth.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Belle Isle Conservancy, 99 Pleasure Drive, Detroit, MI 48207.

Funeral Mass for Chester Richard Carter

We have confirmed the details for Chester's funeral mass. Whether you join us in person or from afar, we deeply appreciate your support.

When: Wednesday, June 17, 2026, 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM (Eastern Time)

Where: Church of the Holy Family, 24505 Meadowbrook Rd, Novi, MI 48375

Options for Joining Us:

1. Attend In Person - Luncheon will follow immediately afterward. If you plan to attend the luncheon, kindly send a headcount to Pamela Haase by text at 734-748-5988 or by email at pamelahaase@gmail.com for seating and planning purposes.

2. Join via Live Stream - If you choose to join the Mass virtually: A dedicated YouTube channel will broadcast the service live. When the time comes, the live stream will appear on your screen at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/@HolyFamilyNoviYouTube/streams>

Thank you for your consideration, warmth, and continued support.

To share a message of condolence, please use the “Share a Memory” tab on this webpage.

Upcoming Events

Funeral Mass

JUN 17. 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM (ET)

Church of the Holy Family
24505 Meadowbrook Road
Novi, MI 48375

Tribute Wall

BM

“ Chet was our neighbor in Livonia and a good friend. We and our kids will always remember his kindness. Farewell, Dear Friend

Boris, Fumiko, Ren, Juri, Kyra Mashkov - May 30 at 06:22 PM

EG

“ Chet was always very witty and I admired that he lived and worked in San Francisco

Eric Goosen - May 19 at 03:08 PM

IG

“ When I was in my teens I really didn't bond with my brother Chet. After all we were almost 10 years apart. But that changed as years went on.

My husband Ed also graduated from Wayne State the same year that Chet did. They attended some of the same classes but never actually met each other.

We went to many alumni functions together.

I will miss our weekly telephone chats. He was always positive and never complained.

Isabelle Goosen - May 19 at 12:44 PM

PC

Chet and I go back to our days together at Levi Strauss; I never thought some years later we would be married! He was handsome, charming, clever, and extremely intelligent. We traveled the world together and I think his favorite trip was to Poland (as he was 100%) where he discovered had a cousin there. Rest in Peace, Chester.

Patricia Carter - May 31 at 12:27 PM