

EULOGY for WES PAPACHARALAMBOUS

By Alex Shore

President Abraham Lincoln once said: “In the end, it’s not the years in your life that count. It’s the life in your years.”

These words embody the life and spirit of Wes Papacharalambous. Wes was the most charismatic and selfless person that I have ever known. He was a man of purpose and passion... And he was always up to something.

My name is Alex Shore. I have known Wes since we first met on the first day of the sixth grade. He was my first friend in middle school; he was the heart and soul of our neighborhood friend group, and also my fraternity brother. He not only impacted my life, he impacted the lives of countless others in his hometown, his university, and his new home in California – which has been evident in the past week.

Wesley Bliss Papacharalambous was born on October 26, 1992, at Botsford Hospital, in Farmington Hills. He was the first child to Karen and Harry Papacharalambous and the older brother of Nicholas Papacharalambous. Wes went to Farmington High School and attended college at Michigan State University, where he graduated with a degree in Advertising in 2015. At Michigan State, he was a proud member of Delta Sigma Phi Fraternity and the United States National Guard, and raised a dog, Buddy. After college, Wes moved to California for a job at Oracle in Santa Monica. Not long after, Wes began his own management company, which contributed to various charities, such as the Headstrong Foundation whose mission is Healing the Hidden Wounds of War. Recently Wes also began to collaborate in the music industry, promoting musicians and independent projects in the greater Los Angeles Area. His travels took him around the world. He was always up to something...

During our junior year of high school, Wes and I had recently completed our ACT tests for college applications. To celebrate, he accompanied my family on a trip to Toronto. At the time, both of us played Ice Hockey, so we went to a Maple Leafs game and to the Hockey Hall of Fame - but that wasn't all. Wes and I told my parents we wanted to “explore” a little bit before we went to the Hockey Hall of Fame, and in that time, Wes and I stumbled into the shadiest “Novelty ID store” that two teenagers could find. Fifteen minutes later, we were the proud owners of two of the most poorly made fake ID's in North America, and we met back up with my family as if nothing had happened – ya - we were always up to something...

One example of Wes's impact was as a fraternity brother at Delta Sigma Phi. The motto of the fraternity is “Better Men, Better Lives.” Wes not only became the best version of himself as a brother, but also took it upon himself to bring out the best in others. His contagious personality, laughter, and demeanor encompassed the meaning of brotherhood and friendship, and defined the motto - bettering others. Of course –it WAS a fraternity – and Wes had his fair share of fun - but since we're in church – suffice it to say – he was always up to something...

It wasn't just that Wes impacted his friends – he left an impression with complete strangers. Just last Saturday, he met a woman at the airport in Detroit while he was waiting for his ride. He immediately sparked up a conversation with this stranger and made a meaningful connection. After he passed away, the woman he had met mere days ago, reached out to explain how moved she was by Wes, in a matter of minutes. Wes had an innate ability to engage and connect with anyone, and immediately make him or her a friend; he was always up to something...

But above all, Wes cared for his family. His father, Harry, told us how he would say to Wes; "What did you do? Tell me before someone else tells me... oh you did that? Don't tell anyone" -- like father like son. And then there's Nicholas - Despite all the brotherly fights, he was beyond proud of his brother for serving his country, and Wes always reminded us of Nick's accomplishments. But if there was one person Wes loved unconditionally, it was his mother, Karen. He would take her on trips, take her to events, and he even rescued and gifted her a new dog right after their family pet had passed, just to help her get through that tough time. That's Wes - always caring for others – always up to something...

It is still hard to believe that someone as engaging and charismatic as Wes is no longer with us. His laughter and energy filled up an entire room, and he always wore a smile on his face. He brought unparalleled enthusiasm and love to everyone around him, and the memories he made will resonate with all of us forever. The impact he made on earth, in only twenty-six years of life, was truly profound and he will never be forgotten. Thank you Karen, Harry, and Nicholas for sharing your son and brother with the world, we all are fortunate to have known him. Thank you Wes, for being a one of a kind friend to many – your spirit will live on every day in all of those you have impacted.

Wes was the life of the party - the man with a plan... Who else could gather so many people together in one place to sing the praises of a guy who's not here? Oh – he's here alright – and he's STILL up to something... Thank you and God bless...

- Alex Shore