



Albert Theodore Pizzamiglio

December 19, 1931 - February 14, 2026

Albert Theodore Pizzamiglio (aka Al Pierson) was born on December 19, 1931 in Spring Valley, Illinois to Annabile and Sarah (née Theodore) Pizzamiglio.

He was educated in the DePue Public Schools and graduated with the class of 1949. He attended Illinois State University on a scholarship, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Arts degrees. He did advanced studies at the University of Illinois.

In 1955 he married Joann Hitchcock in Bloomington, Illinois. To this union were born a daughter, Catherine Meddaugh, a son, Gregory Pizzamiglio, both of Texas, and a daughter, Lisa Kay Forst of Oregon. Joann died in a tragic auto accident in 1989.

In 1970 he married Sherri Ivalo. They had no children.

In 1978 he married Nancy Gilman Lovas who preceded him in death in 2016.

His Achievements:

Honoree: Who's Who Among College and University Students (1954)

Honoree: Best New Dance Band in the Country (1975)

Honoree: Ballroom Dancer's Hall of Fame (1970)

Honoree: America's Number One Dance Band (1977)

Honoree: Alumnus of the Year, Illinois State University (2004 to present)

Honoree: 2000 Outstanding Musicians of the 20th Century, International Biographical Center

Recipient: Distinguished Alumni Award, Illinois State University (2004)

Recipient: Superman Award (1977)

Recipient: Men's Club Award, The Illinois Club

Featured Listee: Who's Who in Entertainment, Marquis Who's Who (1992-1993, 1998-1999)

Featured Listee: Who's Who in the South and Southwest, Marquis Who's Who (1992-1993, 1998-1999)

Featured Listee: Who's Who in the World, Marquis Who's Who (2001, 2003-2008)

Featured Listee: Who's Who in America, Marquis Who's Who (2004-2010, 2016)

Designations: Advanced Music Studies, University of Illinois Master of Arts, Illinois State University Bachelor of Arts, Illinois State University

Performed for the 55th Presidential Inauguration Ball for George W. Bush and Richard Cheney in Washington, DC on January 20th, 2005

Albert started his own band in 1947 while in high school and has been actively conducting orchestras ever since. He went on the road with Al Pierson's Big Band USA and in 1989 he took over the Guy Lombardo Orchestra and traveled over 72 countries, flew millions of miles, and played in every state in the U.S.A.

He has taught in grade schools, high schools, and 16 universities and was guest lecturer at local universities until recently. He continued to reside on his Texas ranch where he raised cattle and hay.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Robert, and his wife

Nancy.

He is survived by his children Catherine Meddaugh and Greg Pizzamiglio of Texas, Lisa and husband Kevin Forst of Oregon, his stepchildren Lori Robertson (husband Brent Cisne) of Illinois, and Randy and wife Kathryn Lovas of California; eleven grandchildren Alexandria Thomas, Joanna Forst, Catherine Forst, Sarah Forst, Sophia and husband Liam Boehning, and Levi Forst; Matthew and wife Elizabeth Lovas, Jennifer Lovas, and Samantha and husband Cory Willard; and Ainsley and Kinzie Robertson; and five great-grandchildren, Temperance and Lucius Thomas, Leonardo Garza, Malachi Debnam and Freyja Forst.

He is also survived by his classmate and dear friend of 90 years who was helping Al write his autobiography at the time of his death, Jeanette Peterson Langebartels.

A visitation will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Monday, February 23, 2026, followed by a Celebration of Life and Witness to the Resurrection service at 2:30 p.m., at Calvary Baptist Church. Roger Greer and Jason Sidler will officiate.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorial donations be made to Calvary Baptist Church, 125 North Jefferson Street, Pilot Point, TX 76258.

A second visitation will take place at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, February 26, at Barto Funeral Home in Spring Valley, Illinois, followed by a 2:00 p.m. graveside service at Valley Memorial Park Cemetery. Al will be laid to rest there beside his parents and other beloved family members.

Online condolences may be shared at www.slaymemorialfuneralcenter.com

Services are being conducted under the direction of Terri Slay and Slay Memorial Funeral Center, Aubrey, Texas.

Cemetery Details

Valley Memorial Park Cemetery

13312 IL-89
Spring Valley, IL 61362

Previous Events

Visitation

FEB 23. 2:00 PM - 2:30 PM (CT)

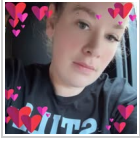
Calvary Baptist Church
125 N Jefferson St
Pilot Point, TX 76258

Funeral Service

FEB 23. 2:30 PM - 3:30 PM (CT)

Calvary Baptist Church
125 N Jefferson St
Pilot Point, TX 76258

Tribute Wall



“ Glad I got to spend his 94th birthday with him and all his amazing friends and family!



Brooklyn Fowler - February 23 at 02:49 PM



“ I miss and loved taking care of this amazing person. He touched my heart so big. I'm so happy. That I got to meet him.



Brooklyn Fowler - February 23 at 02:48 PM



“ A sympathy card was purchased for the family of Albert Theodore Pizzamiglio.



February 21 at 10:25 AM

LF

“ I knew Mr. Pizzamiglio as his student at Heyworth Grade School, Heyworth, Illinois. His exuberant personality and love of music has greatly influenced me during my life. I will always remember the great "Follies" he produced at our school in addition to all the music programs. Thank you, Mr. P. There is music in heaven, and I will be excited to see you there . . . Linda Behrens Furmanick, Nashville, TN

Linda Furmanick - February 20 at 05:34 PM



“ Al was a longtime family friend who always took time to ask about each of our family members. I always looked forward to visiting with him and sharing stories of travels and music. He will be missed.

Ken Wilson - February 20 at 01:42 AM

KW

“ Karen Walterscheid lit a candle in memory of Albert Theodore Pizzamiglio



Karen Walterscheid - February 19 at 09:58 PM

KW

“ It was a privilege to meet Al several years ago at Calvary Baptist church in Pilot Point. He shared his memories but never boasted about all of these things he had accomplished through his life. He was a very unique and distinguished man who loved Jesus. May you rest in Heaven now Al.

Karen Walterscheid - February 19 at 09:56 PM

VM

“ *Al was the consummate impresario. The entire world was his stage. We can only imagine him continuing to entertain a new audience with his music and his stories.*

val and John Meddaugh - February 19 at 05:42 PM