



## Matthew Gilbert Leopard

December 1, 1960 - February 17, 2020

Matthew G. Leopard, 59 passed on Feb. 17, after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer. A member of the federal Senior Executive Service, Matt directed the Office of Information Management within the Office of Mission Support at the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. As director, he led EPA's information collection, management, and reporting activities, including technical support for the Exchange Network, E-Enterprise, and the Central Data Exchange. Matt was a thoughtful leader in promoting modern approaches to the use of data to support the health-and-environmental-protection goals of EPA and its state and tribal partners. Over a 30-year career, Matt worked his way up the agency ranks, from information policy staff to senior manager. Throughout, he was an innovator and driver, advancing the transformation of paper processes into digital workflows, electronic information exchange with states and tribes, electronic permitting, and geospatial analysis and data visualization. Universally recognized as a genuinely good guy, Matt was highly admired for his unique blend of qualities—leadership skills, intelligence, curiosity, dedication, good humor, compassion and kindness to his colleagues—that made him a delight to be around. Matt grew up in Buffalo, NY, the son of history professor and WWII author Donald Leopard and Barbara Jean Leopard, a Buffalo DAR genealogist and former social worker. He is a descendent of early American settlers and revolutionary war patriots. Passionate about the natural world, Matt earned a degree in marine biology from the University of Miami (Coral Gables, FL) and a master's degree in biology from the SUNY Buffalo State College. Seeking the ultimate challenge, he took on Officer Candidate School at Marine Corps Base Quantico, and proudly served his country. Matt enjoyed spending time and travelling with his family—they especially loved the Florida Keys, birding, fishing, running, mushroom and rock hunting, and discovering nature's hidden wonders. Loving husband, father, brother and uncle, he is survived by his devoted wife of 31 years, Patricia, son, Thomas, daughter, Sarah, and sisters Ann (Vienna, VA) and Melissa (Buffalo, NY) and their families—his premature passing has left their hearts broken. A prayer service will be held at Pierce Funeral Home, 9609 Center Street, Manassas, VA on Monday, February 24, 2020 at 10:00 AM with Deacon Brian Majewski officiating. Interment will follow with military honors at Culpeper National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please donate in his name to the Friends of Bahia Honda

State Park, Inc., P.O. Box 430403, Big Pine Key, Florida 33043, or the Pancreatic Cancer Action Network.

<https://www.tributeslides.com/tributes/show/PLZXDDHLHYXSZW8L>

# Cemetery

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## **Culpeper National Cemetery (New Section)**

501 E. Chandler Street  
Culpeper, VA, 22701

# Events

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**FEB 24** **Prayer service** 10:00AM

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Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St., Manassas, VA, US,  
20110

**FEB 24** **Graveside Services** 12:00PM

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Culpeper National Cemetery  
501 E. Chandler Street, 22701, VA, US

# Comments

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“ An external video has been added.



**Pierce Funeral Home** - February 21 at 01:05 PM

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“ When I first came to OEI in 2002, Matt was one of the first people to greet me and help me get used to the new organizations. Over the years Matt and I were colleagues and friends, and I watched him grow into one of the finest managers I had ever worked with at EPA. A visionary, but still practical enough to get things done. More than that, Matt was a just a good guy. He talked about his family frequently, and cared deeply for his work family as well. He cared about his folks' careers, their family lives, and saw his mission to make things better each day.

Mike Petruska

**Mike Petruska** - April 01 at 10:37 AM

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“ I didn't get to work with Matt very long — less than three years, on E-Enterprise — but remember him well and fondly as always resolutely oriented towards finding collaborative common ground, on issues that were often technically challenging and politically difficult. And always with great respect for all the participants in the conversation, no matter how tense the discussions might become.

His insightful mind and considerate, caring personality made him a genuinely good person. The world is a poorer place without him.

Philip Metzger

**Philip Metzger** - February 25 at 01:31 PM

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“ I have had the privilege to be Matt's next- door neighbor for 12 years. I have watched his children grow into blossoming adults because of the love, care and guidance he and Patty have given them. He was devoted to his family and his wife and a wonderful provider of his time and knowledge. He was a good neighbor to everyone. Patty was the love of his life and she loved him. She was such a strong caregiver through this process and she helped him to stay strong. He was a warrior through

this disease and put all his strength in staying positive and making others feel comfortable even though he knew how it may end. I would take him over soup and set with him at lunch and talk. He wasn't afraid to die but to leave his family. We had a connection about life because I too have had cancer and we supported each other about the unknown. What I do know, is that he was a wonderful man with good character, knowledge and horse sense. He was modest, faithful, intelligent and kind. A very private man but so loved by his family. Rest in peace my friend. You will be missed.

This poem by Anne Lindgren Davison is how I think he would want to be remembered.

"Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free, I'm following the path God laid for me. I took His hand when I heard His call, I turned my back and left it all. I could not stay another day, to laugh, to love, to work, or play. Tasks left undone must stay that way, I've found that peace at the end of the day. If my parting has left a void, then fill it with remembered joy. A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss, Ah, yes, these things I too will miss. Perhaps my time seemed all too brief, don't lengthen it now with undue grief. Lift up your heart and share with me, God wanted me now, He set me free."

Until we meet again, Laura Dye

Laura Dye - February 25 at 09:31 AM

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“ When I first met Matt, I noticed that he would close every phone call, every meeting or every chance encounter in the courtyard with a very deliberate and considered phrase “you take care now.” It was his signature saying and each time, whether it was the first or fifth time in a day, it was delivered with sincerity, gratitude and thoughtfulness.

“You take care now.” It is not a typical way to end meetings or chance encounters but Matt was not typical. He approached his work, his colleagues, his staff and everything he did by projecting a space of open kindness and consideration that drew others to his calling and leadership. This is why so many willingly followed him and helped him accomplish so much. He opened the space for them to join and contribute and relish in shared accomplishments.

One sunny day last spring, while talking with Harvey and I he said “let’s go get coffee” and off we went for a stress free conversation about work, life and the joys of coffee cake. He snapped a selfie and later told me it was one he would always cherish. I know I do.

I will miss our morning chats, his gentle way of guiding and coaching, his incredible insights and ideas and our conversations on how to move our mission forward, life, family, where to travel in the world and our shared love of flowers.

Rest in peace my dear friend and you take care now.

Maja

Maja Lee - February 24 at 09:35 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Maja Lee - February 24 at 09:32 PM

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“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Michelle Torreano - February 24 at 05:00 PM

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“ I had the opportunity to work with Matt while I was a contractor working with EPA, he was great to work with, always had positive ideas, and treated everyone well. When I had the opportunity to join EPA the chance to work with Matt was one of the reasons I did, we were each a Branch Chief and our work brought us together, again he was always willing to work across the organization for advancing EPA's mission.

But the big thing about him was his attitude. He always looked for the bright side, would work for an answer where all came out ahead, he was always ready to "check his ego at the door" but he never gave up his kindness, his overall joy of life, and treating everyone well. We found out we'd both been born in Buffalo, knew many of the same places, and both relocated to DC to do something to help. It was a privilege to work with Matt, everyone he touched came out a better person for the experience. I'll miss him.

Dalroy Ward

Dalroy Ward - February 24 at 11:32 AM

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“ Its interesting in reading all the tributes on this page, Matt as truly an inspirational leader and tremendous colleague but what he really was - was a good man and just a nice guy. I worked with Matt on and off over the past years and he always was pleasant, friendly and concerned about the human element. You can tell a lot about an person by the first words that come out of their mouths when you meet - with Matt, it was always, a broad smile and strong handshake and wondering how I was personally before we got down to business - at the end of the meeting, he thanked me for my input and I left feeling appreciated and respected.

My favorite Matt Leopard moment was during a Working Capital Fund Board Meeting a few years ago - those meetings can be long and tense at times. Matt was scheduled to make a pitch for funding for his eDiscovery process. I knew when he pulled out a disco ball, turned the lights off, the ball on, and played "Staying alive" by the Bee Gees, this briefing was going to be one for the memory books and it was - something I'll always remember. God speed Matt Leopard and Semper Fi

Tom Reilly

Tom Reilly - February 24 at 08:53 AM

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“ I had the pleasure of working with Matt for several years. He was an honest and fair person. He saw the potential in me and gave me opportunities to explore those potentials. He was kind and had a wonderful sense of humor. My heartfelt condolences to the family. He will be truly missed.

Brenda Gibson Jones

Brenda Jones - February 23 at 11:27 PM

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“ I had the privilege of being Matt's manager while I was the EPA CIO. Matt was one of the finest people I've ever met. He was always kind to everyone and saw the glass half full even when everyone else saw it as completely empty. He could turn any experience, no matter how negative on the surface, into a gift. The world is a poorer place without Matt in it but his influence will be felt for many, many years to come by those whose lives he touched.

Ann Dunkin - February 23 at 08:03 PM

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“ I had the distinct pleasure of co chairing one of the E-Enterprise governance bodies with Matt, and have been lucky enough to know and work with him for about 20 years. In addition to heartily agreeing with all of the wonderful things said here about this special person, I have to say that the way that Matt handled his battle with such

grace, humor and honesty was truly inspirational. I have many fond memories of working with Matt over the years, my favorite being the time that Matt and I gave a presentation to the E-Enterprise Leadership Council in West Virginia and Matt incorporated his disco ball into the presentation. That was who Matt was, and I am a better person for knowing him. I am in NH and unfortunately will not be able to attend the ceremonies Monday, but in honor of what Matt taught me about leadership and taking work seriously while still keeping things in perspective and making sure your people are having fun, I am going to treat my group to a pizza party for lunch to thank them for their hard work. I regret that I never had the chance to meet Matt's family, but maybe I still will someday. For now, my thoughts and prayers are with you and hopefully the tributes here provide some comfort during this difficult time.

**Chris Simmers** - February 23 at 05:26 PM

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“ Thinking of Matt's family and EPA family with sympathy and sadness. Matt was a wonderful human. He always showed great interest in others and the world around him. His keen mind, generous spirit, and contagious enthusiasm will be greatly missed. Susan Joan Smiley Baker

**Susan Joan Smiley Baker** - February 23 at 01:35 PM

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“ Matt's Office of Information Management Staff purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Matthew Gilbert Leopard.



**Matt's Office of Information Management Staff** - February 23 at 11:28 AM

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“ Matt was a great colleague and friend and I feel very graced to have worked with him for many years. He was unique in so many ways. Matt was totally dedicated to EPA's mission and generously lent his creativity, intellect and vision to all of the projects he led or participated in. He had a humane and compassionate leadership style and a great role model and was loved and admired by so many people he interacted with across EPA and with state and tribal partners. I first got to know Matt when he was a branch chief in the Office of Environmental Information and I was a regional GIS coordinator and we used to talk frequently about what we could accomplish if we were running things. We kept in touch through the vagaries of our career and worked together in various capacities. I was his supervisor, he was then mine, it didn't really matter. We always had fun together and were able to focus on work, but also share great conversations about the state of the world, the absurdity of bureaucracies,

travel, food and family. Everyone who got to know Matt was lucky to have shared their life with him, and he will live on in the many people he influenced during his career. My deepest condolences to his family.

Harvey Simon - February 23 at 11:18 AM

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“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Harvey Simon - February 23 at 10:41 AM

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“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



Harvey Simon - February 23 at 10:22 AM

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“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Matthew Gilbert Leopard.



February 22 at 10:27 AM

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“ Matt was a great human being and an excellent manager. I feel fortunate to have had him as a friend and colleague. Condolences to his family, friends and co-workers.

Ken Blumberg - February 22 at 10:24 AM

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“ Matt was a prime reason why working at EPA was by far my best career experience and made EPA family to me. He always made you enjoy working together. Even my last lunch with him, not too long ago, he gave no hint of negativity. Condolences for his family, and everyone who knew him. He truly will be missed.

**John Sullivan** - February 21 at 06:32 PM

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“ Matt was a Class Act. He was fair and fair minded. He was direct and thoughtful. He was kind and generous. He was a fine manager and leader. He was someone you wanted to call your friend. He was a credit to the Agency and to his country.

**Pat Garvey** - February 21 at 03:06 PM

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“ I am truly sorry for your loss. Matt was once of the nicest people I have every met, and I felt like he genuinely cared about all of the people in his life, even those like myself that he had only met in person a few times. He will be missed.

April Hathcoat

**April Hathcoat** - February 21 at 11:34 AM

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“ Matt was a genuinely kind person who went above and beyond to advance the work of EPA and those directly affected by our work, our partners in the states, tribes and territories. He was a true champion of EPA's Tribal Program and worked to advance tribal data efforts at EPA and in Indian country and Alaska. Matt always had such a positive outlook and was a thoughtful manager. He was the senior manager who never backed away from an challenge, but always looked for what he or our office could do to help address it. He also had a love of travel and I enjoyed talking to him about our respective vacation plans. We will all miss his presence, caring manner, and strategic direction in OIM.

I am so very sorry for your loss.

Beth Jackson

**Beth Jackson** - February 21 at 09:53 AM

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“ To the Leopards – thank you for sharing Matt with us all these years. You are in our thoughts and prayers. The flowers Matt brought to the office each week brightened our world and made us smile, but it was the nurturing and care he gave that will be missed most.

Hope Kosier

Hope Kosier - February 20 at 05:04 PM

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“ My sincere condolences to the Leopard family. Matt was one of the nicest and most sincere people I ever had the pleasure to work with.

Susan Jacks - February 20 at 03:07 PM

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“ Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of Matthew Gilbert Leopard.



February 20 at 02:55 PM

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“ 3 files added to the album Memories Album



Michelle Torreano - February 20 at 01:34 PM

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“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of Matthew Gilbert Leopard.



