



APRIL 24, 1929 - FEBRUARY 5, 2025

Remembering Pete Deluca

It's hard to overstate the impact Pete Deluca created at Trinidad State. Graduating in 1949, Pete would return to the College in 1964 to begin a career that lasted 40 years. His retirement would add another 20 years to that total. During this time, he would serve as an administrator, a leader, a friend, and a sage.

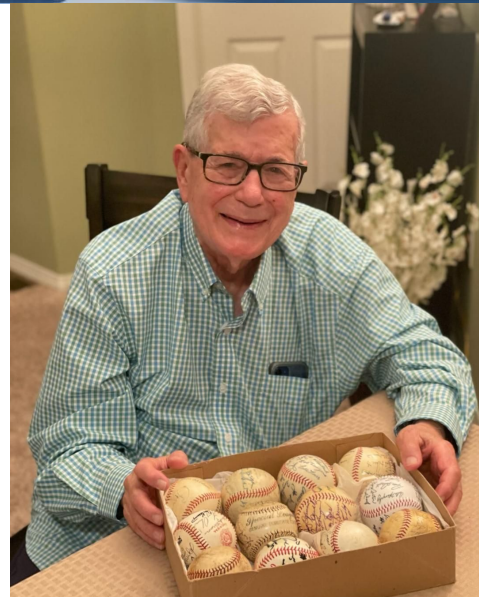
Across these many decades, Pete touched the lives of thousands of students, colleagues and community members. Few people will leave behind a more powerful Trinidad State legacy than "Grampy" Pete.

In addition to his contributions to Athletics, Admissions, Student Services, and his role as the College's "#1 Sports Fan," Pete deserves special recognition for leading the TSJC Educational Foundation during the successful Challenge Grant fundraising effort, paving the way for the Foundation's remarkable growth.

When Pete passed away on February 5, 2025, the stories, memories, photos and recollections began spreading quickly among family and friends, students and alumni. So many people had something to share, and they wanted to share it with others.

We'd like to extend two invitations with this special issue of Pillar & Post.

First, we invite you to read these stories of Pete — eulogies, his obituary, an article honoring him from 2020 — and also to enjoy the many photos



Statement from the Trinidad State College Foundation

We are deeply saddened by the passing of Pete Deluca, whose impact on Trinidad State spanned six decades. A 1949 TSJC graduate, he dedicated 40 years (1964–2004) to shaping the College, serving in numerous leadership roles, including Activities Director, Athletic Director, Dean of Student Services, and Vice President for Institutional Development. Even after retiring in 1992, he continued part-time as the Director of the Trinidad State

provided by family and friends. Second, if you feel inclined, we also invite you to share a photo, memory or anecdote about the impact Pete may have had for you. A selection of these recollections will become part of our recognition area in the Freudenthal Memorial Library.

Thank you for helping us honor the life of Pete Deluca.



A Life of Service - Pete Deluca

From the February 2020 Issue of Pillar & Post

"They say, if you can remember when you retired – then you haven't really retired," Pete said. "So I try to hang around." And with a career that spanned more than 40 years, few people are more closely identified with Trinidad State than Pete Deluca.

Pete was born in 1929 in the mining town of Delagua, CO. "Both sides of my family were in mining," he explained, "my grandfather, my uncles, and other relatives. And my father worked at the company store. I was born into a Colorado mining family."

His family would move to nearby Trinidad when Pete was in 2nd grade. Later, after graduating from TSJC in 1949 – and then from the University of Denver in 1951 – Pete would return to Trinidad after a short stint in the Air Force. He immediately went to work for KCRT radio. [Read More](#)

Educational Foundation until 2004, furthering opportunities for students.

Many considered him the personification of Trinidad State – his dedication, kindness, and leadership embodied everything the College stands for. His passing is a tremendous loss, and his absence will be deeply felt across our campus and beyond.

Through it all, he remained a mentor and friend, welcoming students from around the world and staying connected long after they left. Even today, Trinidad State Women's Softball players lovingly called him "Grandpa Pete" – a testament to his lasting impact on generations of students. His legacy will forever be a part of Trinidad State.

Our thoughts are with his family, friends, and all who had the privilege of knowing him.



Eulogy by Tyler Crichton

Eulogy by Carol Patrick

Pete Deluca's Obituary

Trinidad State College Foundation

Phone: (719) 846-5520

Email: tscolumnifoundation@trinidadstate.edu

Website: www.trinidadstate.edu/foundation





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