

## **PETER ETXEBERRIAREN BIOGRAFIA LABURTUA**

(1918-2000)

Aita: Juan Crisostomo Etxeberria, Lekeition jaio, 1893ko abenduaren 27an.  
Zakarias Etxeberria eta Elena Goikoetxea Etxeberriaren semea.

Ama: Maria Sarasketa Etxeberria, Bizkaian jaioa, 1895eko abenduaren 31an.  
Felipe Sarasketa eta Maria Aranzabal Sarasketaren alaba.

Ama, Estatu Batuetara Apatamonasteriotik etorri zen, aita, aldiz, Lekeitiotik.

Peter Ignacio Etxeberria, 82 urterekin zendu zen Washoe Villagen, Renon, 2000.eko uztailaren 5ean. 1918ko ekainaren 29an jaio zen Shostonen, Idahon, gurasoak Maria Sarasketa eta Jon Etxeberria zituelarik. Peter-en ama, jaiotzez Apatamonasteriokoa zen eta aita, berriz, lekeitiarra. Aitaren aldetik, aiton-amonak Zakarias Etxeberria eta Elena Goikoetxea Etxeberria ziren, biak lekeitiarrak. Amaren aldetik, aldiz, Felipe Sarasketa eta Maria Aranzabal Sarasketa ziren, biok bizkaitarrak.

Familia Ely-ra (Nevada), bizitzera joan zen, Peter-ek zazpi urte zituenean. White Pine County-ko Institutuan graduatu zen 1936an. 1939an Renora etorri zen, Nevadako Unibertsitaterra eta 1943an graduazioa lortu. Ondoren arma dan sartu zen, Georgian, Fort Benning-eko ofizial hautagaien eskolan graduatuz. II. mundu gerran, Pazifikoko aldean borrokatu zuen, Kwaijalean, Leyte eta Okinawako guduetan gerran. Ondorioz, Brontzezko Izararekin eta Purpura Bihotzarekin saritua izan zen.

Armada utzi ondoren, Peter-ek Stanford-eko Zuzenbide Fakultatean ikasi zuen, eta 1949an lizentziatu zen, LLB agiri batekin. Urte berean Nevada Estatuko Epaitegian onartua izan zen eta abokatu gisa aritu zen Renon, 1983ko uztailaren lerarte epaiketarako abokatu bezala espezializatuz. Sasoi horretan, Zuzenbidearen praktika aktibotik erretiratu ostean, joko arazo, lur-ondare eta arazo legaletan espezializatuko zen orientabide enpresa bat sortu zuen.

1951-53ko Nevada Estatuko legeingintzaldian Estatuko Prokuradore Jeneralaren laguntzaile nagusi gisa aritu zen. Baita Estatuko senaturako hautatua izan zen ere Washoe County-tik, bertan 1959tik 1963arte egonik. 1963an, Nevadako Estatuko planingintzarako kontseiluko kide izendatu zuten eta hurrengo hiru gobernadoreek kargu horretan berretsi zuten. Kontseilu horretako buru gisa ziharduen, 1973an, Mike O'Callaghan gobernadoreak Nevada Estatuko joko batzorderako izendatu zuenean. 1977ko apiril arte kargu horretan izan zen eta urte bereko azaroan, Las Vegas-eko Caesar's Palace-eko zuzendarien kontseilari izendatu zuten, eta ia 20 urtetan kargu horretan iraun.

Baita Caesar's World Inc., Caesar's New Jersey eta Security Pacific Bank-eko zuzendarien kontseilari izan zen ere urte horietan. Hortaz gain, Nevadako gobernadoreak zaldi basatien batzordeko buru izendatu zuen 1983ko azaroan.

Amerikako epaiketako abokatuen kontseiluko (ABOTA) buru nazionala izan zen, kargu horretarako berrautatua izan zen pertsona bakarra izanik. Amerikako Elkargoko, Nazioarteko legegizonen Akademiako, Nevadako Estatu Epaitegiko, Washoe Country-ko legegizon Elkarteko kide eta Nevadako abokatuen Elkarteko sortzaileetarikoa izan zen (NTLA). NTLAk orain asko ez dela, lehen aldiz bizidun bati emandako merezimendu eta lorpenen saria eman zion, Estatu Batuetan izan den legegizon garrantzitsuenetarikoa bezala kontsideratuta zegoen legegizona omendurik.

Peter-ek harro asko bizi izan zuen bere euskaldun jatorria eta bertatik sortu zituen karrera profesional arrakastatsua eta familia zoragarri bat izatera eramango zituen oinarritzko baloreak. Hiru bidaia egin zituen Euskal Herrian zehar, behin amarekin batera, gaztaroan Ameriketara joateko utzi zuen etxea bizitzera joan zen. Bob Laxalt eta Dick Graves-en laguntzarekin, Sparks, Nevadan 1959an ospatu zen Euskal Jai Nazionala martxan jarri zuen. Haren helburuetako bat, bizitzan hain garrantzitsua izan zuen euskal jatorriarekiko harrotasuna, Ameriketan jaiotako euskal jatorriko haurrei transmititzea zen. Reno Zazpiak-Bat Euskal Elkarteko eta NABOk jarraitzaile sutsua ere izan zen.

Haren lau seme-alabak bizi dira: John eta Cathy emaztea Witton-en (Kalifornian), Mike eta Karen emaztea Sacramenton; Cris alaba eta David Welmerink senarra, Renon, eta Renon bizi dira baita Teresa beste alaba eta Dennis Maloney senarra ere. Baita bizi dira haren 11 biloba eta 2 birloba ere. Bestalde, haren arreba den Marie Ordoiki, Ely-n, Nevadan, eta beste iñoba ugari ere.

Peter omendu nahian, haren familiak Peter Etxeberria Eskola Diru-laguntzak sortu ditu ABOTA/ 5307 East Mockingbird Lane, Suite 1060, Dallas, Texas 75206; eta Nevadako Unibertsitateko Euskal Ikasketen Instituturako Peter Etxeberria fundazioaren laguntzarekin. Diru laguntzak azken Fundazio honetan egin daitezke eta helbide honetara bidali: 162 postakutxa, Nevada-Renoko Unibertsitatea, Reno, Nevada 89557.

## **BIOGRAPHICAL RESUME OF PETER ECHEVERRIA**

(1918-2000)

Father: Juan Crisostomo Echeverria born 12/27/1893 in Lekeitio.  
Son of Zacharias Echeverria and Elena Goicoechea Echeverria.

Mother: Maria Sarasqueta Echeverria born 12/31/1895 in Bizcaya.  
Daughter of Felipe Sarasqueta and Maria Aransabal Sarasqueta.

Mother came to U.S. from Apatamonasterio; Father from Lekeitio.

Peter Ignacio Echeverria, 82, died July 5, 2000, at Washoe Village in Reno. He was born June 29, 1918, in Shoshone, Idaho, to Marie Sarasqueta and John Echeverria. Peter's mother came to this country from Apatamonasterio and his father from Lekeitio. Peter's paternal grandparents were Zacharias Echeverria and Elena Goicoechea Echeverria, both from Lekeitio. His maternal grandparents were Felipe Sarasqueta and Maria Aransabal Sarasqueta, both from Bizcaya.

The family moved to Ely, Nevada, when Peter was seven years of age. He graduated from White Pine County High School in 1936. He came to Reno in 1939 to attend the University of Nevada, graduating in 1943. He then entered the Army, graduating from Officers Candidate School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He served in the Pacific Theater in the battles of Kwajalean, Leyte and Okinawa and was awarded the Bronze Star and the Purple Heart.

After his discharge from the Army, Peter attended Stanford Law School and graduated in 1949 with an LL.B. He was admitted to the Nevada State Bar the same year and practiced law in Reno, Nevada, specializing as a trial lawyer until July 1, 1983. At that time, after retiring from the active practice of the law, Peter operated a consulting firm specializing in gaming matters, real estate and legal matters.

He served as Special Assistant Attorney General with the Nevada State Legislature in 1951 and 1953, and was subsequently elected to the State Senate from Washoe County, serving from 1959 through 1963. He was appointed to the State Planning Board in 1963 and was reappointed by three Governors. He was serving as Chairman of the State Planning Board in 1973 when Governor Mike O'Callaghan appointed him Chairman of the Nevada State Gaming Commission. He served in that position until April, 1977. In November, 1977, he was elected to the Board of Directors of Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, and served nearly twenty years.

He served on the Boards of Directors of Caesar's World, Inc., Caesar's New Jersey, and Security Pacific Bank. He also served as Chairman of the Nevada Governor's Wild Horse Committee, having been appointed in November, 1983.

He was a past National President of the American Board of Trial Advocates (ABOTA), being the only man every elected twice to that position. He was a member of the American College of Trial Attorneys, International Academy of Trial Attorneys, the State Bar of Nevada, the Washoe County Bar Association, and was one of the founders of the Nevada Trial Lawyers Association (NTLA). NTLA recently awarded him the first ever Lifetime Achievement Award acknowledging the man who many considered to be one of the finest trial attorneys in America.

Peter's Basque heritage was always a source of tremendous pride for him and the foundation of the values upon which he built both a loving family and a successful career. He made three trips to the Basque Country, once taking his Mother back to see the home which she left at such a young age. Along with Bob Laxalt and Dick Graves, Peter founded the National Basque Festival held in Sparks, Nevada, in 1959. One of his goals for that Festival was to give the American born children of Basque families that pride in their Basque heritage which was so instrumental in Peter's life. He was a strong supporter of the Reno Zazpiak-Bat Basque Club and of NABO.

Surviving are his four children: son John and wife Cathy of Wilton, California; son Mike and wife Karen of Sacramento, California; daughter Cris and husband David Welmerink of Reno; and daughter Teresa and husband Dennis Maloney of Reno. Also surviving are 11 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren, as well as his sister Marie Ordoqui of Ely, Nevada, and numerous nieces and nephews.

To honor Peter, the family has established a Peter Echeverria Memorial Scholarship with the ABOTA Foundation, 5307 East Mockingbird Lane, Suite 1060, Dallas, Texas 75206; and the Peter Echeverria Memorial Fund for the UNR Basque Studies Institute. Donations may be made to UNR Foundation/Echeverria Fund and mailed to Advancemen/162, University of Nevada-Reno, Reno, Nevada 89557.

*M. Douglas*