



**CEO File**  
Thomas M. Petro is  
passionate about banking  
— and guitar playing. P13

THOMAS M. PETRO  
FOX CHASE BANK

**CEO FILE**

# 'Be passionate about what you do.'



Thomas M. Petro P13

MIKE MERGEN

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## **PERSONAL INFORMATION**

**Name:** Thomas M. Petro  
**Title:** President and CEO  
**Company, city:** Fox Chase Bank, Hatboro  
**Type of company:** Business and consumer bank.  
**Recent project:** Recent filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission to convert the 139-year-old bank to a public company.  
**Education:** Point Park College in Pittsburgh, BS in business management and AS in banking.  
**First job:** Neighborhood where I grew up had three newspapers: two competing morning dailies and an evening paper. At 13 years old I built a newspaper delivery monopoly by taking over all three routes. If you wanted a paper delivered, you had to get it from me. I used the proceeds to buy my first guitar.  
**Little-known fact about you:** Every year I spend one full week in total silence at a monastery. I climbed the Matterhorn. My maternal grandmother dated Jimmy Durante and my paternal grandmother is a cousin of Perry Como.  
**Home:** Malvern.

## **BUSINESS PHILOSOPHY**

**Essential business philosophy:** Invest yourself deeply in people and they will reward you with performance and commitment.  
**Best way to keep a competitive edge:** Be passionate about what you do.

**Yardstick of success:** The number of exceptionally talented people who choose to work with me again and again.  
**Goal yet to be achieved:** Building Fox Chase Bank into the region's preeminent relationship-based business bank.

## **JUDGMENT CALLS**

**Best decision:** Marrying my wife, Kris Messner.  
**Worst decision:** Dropping out of college four times.  
**Toughest decision:** Decision as CEO to recommend to the board of directors the sale of Northeast Pennsylvania Financial Corp., which was subsequently adopted and executed.  
**Mentor:** Bob Stevens, former chairman of The Bryn Mawr Trust Co.; Philadelphia attorney Larry McAlee; John Boyer, retired CEO of Philadelphia Suburban Water Co. and my grandpa.

## **TRUE CONFESSIONS**

**Word that best describes you:** Extraordinary.  
**Like best about your job:** Executing with friends who share my passion, drive and competitive spirit.  
**Like least about your job:** Long hours.  
**The most important lesson you've learned:** God is present in every moment whether or not we make room.

**Life motto:** Live each day as though it is my last.  
**Greatest fear:** Life is what happens while we're busy pursuing our plans. What am I missing?  
**Person most interested in meeting:** The person I am about to meet next.  
**Company you respect most:** Wegman's.  
**First choice for a new career:** Ski instructor.  
**Greatest extravagance:** Tough choice: Either my wine cellar, guitar collection or extensive library.

## **ET CETERA**

**Award/honor most proud of:** Recognition received as co-founder of Aiding Romania's Children, the first visiting nurses program in that country for children with HIV/AIDS.  
**Most influential book:** "My Utmost for His Highest," by Oswald Chambers and James Reimann (editor); and "The Power of Alignment," by George Labovitz and Victor Rosansky.  
**Favorite movie:** "Monty Python and the Holy Grail," directed by Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones; and "Animal House," directed by John Landis.  
**Favorite restaurant:** Grappa in Park City, Utah.  
**Favorite vacation spot:** Utah.  
**Favorite way to spend free time:** Playing blues guitar, ice climbing, skiing, hiking Utah's canyons, golfing, collecting wine and reading.  
**Automobile you drive:** Mercedes E500.