



Donald Matthew Peterson

December 22, 1936 - February 20, 2022

Donald Matthew Peterson, age 85, passed away peacefully on February 20, 2022 in Bonita Springs, Florida. Beloved husband of Patricia Peterson for the past 61 years; dear father of Daniel (Melanie), Linda (Steve) Renke, David (Cathy), Debra (Greg) Mink, James (Cherie), and the late Lisa. Doting grandfather of 14; joyful great-grandfather of four (and a fifth on the way). He is also survived by his sister, Kathleen (George) Wichelns, and both miss their loving parents, Catherine and Cornelius Peterson.

Both born in Mount Vernon, New York, Don and Patti married in 1960 and later resided in Glenview and Lake Forest, Illinois, before becoming long-time residents of Pelican Landing in Bonita Springs, Florida.

In his 49-year career as an actuary, Don rose to Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of Trustmark Insurance Company, which he led through a period of exceptional growth and success, including renaming the company from Benefit Trust Life and relocating headquarters from Chicago to Lake Forest. Previously, he held actuarial positions at Metropolitan Life in New York and North American Company for Life and Health Insurance in Chicago.

Well respected and honored for his leadership within the life and health insurance industry and the actuarial profession and a Fellow of the Society of Actuaries, Don earned a range of initials after his name: FSA, MAAA, EA,

CLU, ChFC, RHU.

At Mount St. Michael Academy in the Bronx, NY, on a full academic scholarship, he earned high honors while leading their basketball team to New York City-wide accolades. Don then went on to earn a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, maxima cum laude, at LaSalle College (now University) in Philadelphia also on a full academic scholarship, starring on their intercollegiate basketball team as well. At LaSalle, he graduated first in his Army ROTC class, graduated second in his class at Officer Basic Course, and went on to serve active and then reserve duty in the artillery, reaching the rank of captain. Don also went on to graduate work at Harvard University, on a full teaching fellowship.

Don was always active in his community, serving on the boards of Glenview's public schools and Barat College, as well as numerous other civic, community, social, and sports organizations and boards.

An active athlete, he excelled at basketball, baseball, golf, tennis, and curling at various stages of his life, winning numerous championships in each. This fueled his passion as a sports fan, being a long-time season ticket holder and fan of Chicago sports teams, the Bears, Bulls, Blackhawks, Cubs, and White Sox, attending their appearances in the Super Bowl, World Series, Stanley Cup Finals and NBA Finals.

He combined his love of sports with his commitment to service by coaching youth sports in baseball and basketball for many years.

Don was an avid traveler with Patti, a member of the Circumnavigators Club, and visitor to well over 100 countries, with a special love of smaller ship cruising.

A long-time parishioner at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview, a funeral mass will be held at his current parish, St Leo the Great Catholic Church, 28290 Beaumont Road, Bonita Springs, FL 34134, at 2 PM on Monday, March 14. Livestream available on Facebook Live through Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Bonita Springs, FL.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Don's honor may be made to Hope Hospice, 27200 Imperial Parkway, Bonita Springs, Florida 34134.

To sign Don's guest register or to leave online condolences, please visit www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com

Arrangements are being handled by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home, Family Owned and Operated since 1978.

Previous Events

Funeral Mass

MAR 14. 2:00 PM (ET)

St. Leo the Great Catholic Church
28300 Beaumont Road
Bonita Springs, FL 34134

Tribute Wall



“ *Donald Matthew Peterson*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Dear Peterson Family:*

There are those whose life's work and impact goes well beyond a small circle. So many of us have benefited from Mr. Peterson's virtues via the family he helped create and support. May his memory remain through the actions of such loving family. And may togetherness bring peace to all who shared meaningful moments with him.

*With much respect and gratitude,
Ruben Ayala MD
Virginia*

Ruben Ayala - March 14, 2022 at 10:44 AM



“ *Peace and grace
.. to Dan, Melanie and families.*

*JF Sarwark MD
Illinois*

JF Sarwark - March 14, 2022 at 09:57 AM



“ *Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Donald Matthew Peterson.*



March 11, 2022 at 07:49 PM



“ *Ocean Breeze Spray was purchased for the family of Donald Matthew Peterson.*



March 09, 2022 at 03:00 PM



“ *Dear Patti and family, Lynda and I were so saddened after hearing about the passing of Don and our hearts go out to you and family. We remember fondly all the Trustmark officer dinners and the wonderful hospitality you and Don always showed us. I especially enjoyed Don's visits back to Trustmark after his retirement. He will be missed.
Our prayers will be with you and family....Rod and Lynda Turner*

Rod Turner - March 03, 2022 at 11:03 AM



“ *The Doherty family offer our prayers and condolences. May Don Rest in Peace.*

Chuck and Minhae Doherty - March 01, 2022 at 05:05 PM

BN

“ *Dear Peterson Family,
Stan and I send our condolences to you on the passing of Don.
May your love and fond memories forever remain in your hearts.
Barbara & Stan Neimark*

barbara neimark - March 01, 2022 at 11:28 AM

EF

“ *Dear Patti and family,
Donna and I are so sorry to hear about Don passing away. We so
enjoyed working together at Trustmark for 30 years, but more
importantly, we value our friendship of 50 years. While Don will be
missed, heaven has another saint.
Donna and Ed Fattes*

Ed Fattes - February 26, 2022 at 10:19 AM

JH

“ *Dan, after not seeing you for years we ran into each other a couple
of weeks ago and spoke about our fathers at the barber shop. I
know they are both looking down on us from heaven and we are
lucky men to have had such wonderful role models. Elizabeth and I
will pray for you, Melanie and your family during this tough time.*

Jim & Elizabeth Hoshaw

Jim Hoshaw - February 24, 2022 at 06:13 PM

KI

“ *Dear Patti & family
So very sad to hear about Don’s passing.
We haven’t seen you and Don for several years, however, we so enjoyed getting to know you at North Shore CC. You were just the cutest couple, friendly & so much fun.
Please know your Don is in our thoughts and prayers.
Fondly, Bob & Kathy Hunt*

Kathy Hunt/Glenview, IL - February 24, 2022 at 05:24 PM

FP

“ *It was our good fortune to be a neighbor of Donald for 20 years. We will remember his leadership in our community, his intelligence and his wit. His pride and love for his family, especially Patti, guided him. They were a very special couple. We cherish the memories we shared with them.
Fredda and Stanley Pollack*

Fredda and Stanley Pollack - February 24, 2022 at 02:51 PM

J

“ My father was the rock of our family, pushing and enabling each of us as we matured and grew as individuals. We will miss his encouragement and wise counsel but know that he is not truly gone and he will continue to be there for each of us when needed.

It might be a while in coming, but for the next Bears, Cubs, White Sox, Bulls or Hawks chance at winning a Championship, I'll be buying an extra seat for him to enjoy with me.

JIM



Jim - February 24, 2022 at 12:44 PM