



Richard Donald Peterson

March 23, 1933 - December 21, 2016

Richard Donald "Don" Peterson, 83, passed away December 21, 2016, in his home in Bonita Springs, Florida. Born March 23, 1933 in Newark, New Jersey to the late William Herman Peterson and Adele Mary Phaneuf Peterson Dreher. Formerly of Westfield, NJ, he had been a Bonita Springs resident since 1998.

Don proudly served in the U.S. Marine Corps from 1952 through 1953 in Korea. His professional career spanned 40 years as the General Manager of several automobile dealerships in northern New Jersey. His high levels of demonstrated integrity and work ethic were well known throughout the automobile industry and to those he served.

Don's family and his friends were the center of his life. Many of his cherished friendships spanned decades and he was always there for them. He was totally loved and adored by all who knew him. An avid golfer and card player, a master storyteller, a lifelong Yankee fan, Don was a proud member of the Suburban Golf Club in Union, NJ, and later the Hunters Ridge Golf & Country Club in Bonita Springs. He shot his age or better 20+ times, and carded a hole-in-one after 57 years in the game.

Don is survived by his loving fiancée Stephanie B. Elford; sister Dolores Nylen; brother Robert; son Ken; son Michael; daughter Jean Rush; daughter

Dawn Peterson; grandsons Joseph Toke and Ryan Sereno; stepsons, Tom, Tim, and Greg Gleason, and stepdaughter Cheryl Gleason. In addition to immediate family there are numerous surviving nieces and nephews, in-laws, and beloved great granddaughter Savannah, who also loved him dearly.

A Celebration of Life will be held Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. at Hunters Ridge Golf and Country Club, 12500 Hunters Ridge Boulevard, Bonita Springs, FL 34135.

In lieu of flowers, the family would be deeply grateful for contributions to Joanne's House at Hope Hospice, 27200 Imperial Parkway, Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Online condolences may be left by visiting www.ShikanyFuneralHome.com.

The family is being served by Shikany's Bonita Funeral Home.

Previous Events

Celebration of Life

MAR 11. 1:30 PM - 4:00 PM (ET)

Hunters Ridge Golf and Country Club
12500 Hunters Ridge Blvd.
Bonita Springs, FL 34135

Tribute Wall



“ *Richard Donald Peterson*

October 09, 2023 at 03:40 AM



“ *Worked for Don as a BMW parts manager at Hoffman BMW. In the 70's. The best GM I ever worked with, nobody even close. A true gentleman that was respected by all that knew him, sincere condolences, Duke Casaleiz*

Duke Casaleiz - January 04, 2017 at 12:24 PM



Thank you, Duke.

Ken Peterson - January 12, 2017 at 01:42 PM



“ *Don was a valued, loyal and productive employee of the Miller Pontiac Cadillac Dealership when located in Rahway, NJ. My condolences to the family.*

Ron Miller

Ronald Miller - January 02, 2017 at 07:10 PM



Thank you, Ron.

Ken Peterson - February 08, 2017 at 01:22 PM

JZ

“ Thanks Ken, You are so like your father, giving comfort to others in your time of loss. We have been very lucky to have know Don for many years, and will miss him dearly. He was a true friend, and we will treasure all the good memories of our time with him. Love, Jim and Joyce

joyce zimmer - December 29, 2016 at 08:49 PM

KP

Thank you, Jim and Joyce.

Ken Peterson - January 12, 2017 at 01:41 PM

PH

“ As I look at Don's picture on this sight, I realize that I was privileged to have known the original 'Cool Hand Luke'. Don, Newman had nothing over you when it came to being just plain cool.

While you will be missed by all, we are grateful for the great times we had and know that you have already organized a new foursome on the ultimate home course!

Best,

Peter Handy

Peter Handy - December 27, 2016 at 10:09 AM

KP

Thank you, Peter.

Ken Peterson - January 12, 2017 at 01:41 PM

KP

“ To my family and my dad's friends and acquaintances,

My father and I enjoyed what was for me an extraordinary relationship, one that became richer and richer over time. I can state with full confidence that I will be eternally grateful for this, as I consider our relationship to be an enormous gift that will keep on giving.

My dad and I each said the words "I love you" before each and every phone call between us concluded.

My dad instilled in me the value of and the benefits to be enjoyed through relationships and friendship through his actions, through the way he engaged his fellow man. His dear Stephanie, his family, friends and acquaintances were the very fabric of my dad's life. YOU provided my dad so much happiness, reason to smile, to laugh and to enjoy his life, particularly those of you in the incredible loving and caring community of Hunters Ridge. Dad felt incredibly fortunate to each and every day he enjoyed in his retirement among you.

For each of you that had your own relationship with my dad, I offer you my heartfelt condolences for your loss. May I offer the following words of comfort, "don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened." That's how dad would want it!

Sincerely yours,

Ken Peterson

Ken Peterson - December 26, 2016 at 09:11 AM

TT

Ken, What a lovely tribute to your father. He was a true gentleman and admired by all those who were acquainted with him in our HR Community. We send our condolences to you and your family. Tish & Jim Tucker

Tish Tucker - December 30, 2016 at 11:04 AM

KP

Thank you, Tish.

Ken Peterson - January 12, 2017 at 01:40 PM

KM

“*Debbie and I wish to express our sincere Condolences to all the Peterson Family. I only had the honor of meeting Don a few times but followed his life through his Son Ken. I know he was proud of his family and leaves behind an incredible legacy.*

*Sincerely,
Benny and Debbie Mathis*

Ken Mathis - December 24, 2016 at 09:20 AM

KP

Thank you, Ken and Debbie.

Ken Peterson - January 12, 2017 at 01:40 PM