



## Dr. Palmer A. Peterson

May 8, 2012

Peterson, Dr. Palmer A. passed away on May 6, 2012 at age 95. He and his wife Lois resided in Burnsville, MN for 41 years. Palmer was born February 18, 1917 to Peter and Aletta (Lee) Peterson and grew up on a farm in Cashton, Wisconsin. Growing up, he enjoyed working on the farm, playing pond hockey, downhill skiing and fishing in the valleys while listening to the birds sing, especially the song sparrow. He graduated from Cashton High School in May 1935. During his four years at the University of Wisconsin at LaCrosse, Palmer majored in science and secondary education and earned his way through undergraduate school. He was a member of the Science Club, Astronomy Club, and Speech Club and was Student Council President. Following graduation, he taught high school chemistry, physics, and biology in Monticello and Mankato. Concerned with the toxicity of cigarettes while teaching in 1939-1940, he did original experiments on the harmful effects of nicotine on living tissues. As a Scout Master in Monticello, he presented six Eagle Scouts at a Minneapolis Council Court of Honor. In 1942, Palmer enlisted in the Navy and was indoctrinated from the Philadelphia Naval Hospital. He was assigned to the Jacksonville Florida Naval Hospital to establish the Naval School of Physical Therapy for Technicians and Navy Trainees. He created the training curriculum for enlistees who were subsequently sent to serve in the naval hospitals, battleships, and aircraft carriers. During this period of duty, Palmer was accepted for medical school and was assigned to the University of Marquette Medical School in

Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He graduated with scholastic honors in 1947. In 1952, he completed his Surgical Fellowship at the University of Minnesota and began his general surgical practice in Bloomington, Minnesota. Over the next 50 years, he worked at the Mayo Clinic Physical Therapy Department, the University of Minnesota Hospital Cancer Detection Center and Northwestern, St. Barnabas, Eitel, Lutheran Deaconess and Riverside Hospitals. In reviewing his record, it was found that he never had a surgical patient expire during surgery or experience a life threatening complication. Palmer retired in 1997 and was given a 50 Year Medical Practice Award by the State of Minnesota. Palmer was affectionately known to his patients and friends as "Dr. Pete", and treated each patient as if they were his only one. He always had plenty of time for his patients and great compassion for them. He enjoyed travels all around Europe, Russia, and Norway in the 1960's. His fishing trips to Canada always produced great "fish stories". In later years, he liked soaking up the sunshine in Florida, Hawaii, and the Caribbean. As a result of his country life as a child, Palmer became intensely interested and developed a fervent love of the natural world. Palmer was passionate about the environment, energy conservation and saving wildlife. He greatly enjoyed his natural backyard and feeding and observing the birds and animals. In 2006, he established a 20 acre nature preserve in perpetuity as a tribute to his parents and grandparents. The land was part of their Wisconsin pioneer farm established in 1866. He was very proud of his 100% Norwegian heritage and family genealogy. To honor this legacy, Palmer initiated the call to descendants for a Benrud family memorial. This memorial became a restored pioneer church that now stands at Norskedalen, a Norwegian heritage and nature center, near Coon Valley, Wisconsin. Palmer is preceded in death by his parents, Peter and Alette (Lee) Peterson; siblings, Elnora (age 3), Lillian (Paul) Halverson, Mabel (Theodore) Bolles, Milford (Genevieve) Peterson, and Hilmer (Frances) Peterson. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Lois (Kuenzel) Peterson, their daughter, Paula (Casey) O'Keefe and granddaughter, Kayla of Burnsville. He is survived by son, Brent Peterson of

Naples, FL; daughter, Sheri Peterson of Fort Myers, FL; and Brad (Sandra) Peterson of Murphys, CA; grandchildren, Robert and Karlee Peterson; Sarah (Scott) LeMaster and Hilary (Seth) Hayden; and great-grandchildren, Skylar, Shane and Scottie LeMaster and Sophia Hayden. Sincere thanks to the professional and dedicated staff at Highview Hills in Lakeville, MN. In lieu of flowers, memorials are preferred to the Norskedalen Nature and Heritage Center, P.O. Box 235, Coon Valley, WI, 54623, North Coon Prairie Lutheran Church, S470 Sunrise Road, Cashton, WI, 54619, or Mount Olivet Retreat and Nature Center. Funeral service Saturday, May 12, 10:30 AM with visitation 1/2 hour prior at Mount Olivet Lutheran Church, 50th and Knox Avenue South, Minneapolis. Interment Lakewood Cemetery. Visitation also Friday 4-7 PM at the: [www.Washburn-McReavy.com](http://www.Washburn-McReavy.com) Edina Chapel 952-920-3996 West 50th St. & Hwy 100

# Tribute Wall

TP

“ Palmer was a beacon of hope and light to Norskedalen as well as the Benrud Little White Chapel project. I can still recall the day I met Palmer and his lovely wife Lois. Such kind, thoughtful, sincere people. He provided a guiding light to the project as well as a stabilizing presence. I thoroughly enjoyed my interactions and time with Palmer, and Lois, and will miss his sense of true stewardship. My thoughts and prayers are with you at this time of loss. I know the memories of your dad will help you through this time and the years ahead. Take care and God bless.

~

*Tammy Potaracke,*

*Norskedalen- Coon Valley, Wisconsin*

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**Tammy Potaracke** - May 14, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *My prayers and condolences go to Dr. Peterson's family. I have also worked with him at Highview Hills and will always remember specific incite he's told me. I'm glad to have known him and been privileged to talk with such an intelligent man.*

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May 11, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Paula please know you are in my thoughts and prayers. Your Father was a wonderful man. He will be dearly missed.*

~

*Julie French,*

*Birchwood, Minnesota*

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**Julie French** - May 10, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ You are in our thoughts and prayers .What a wonderful man. God Bless. Love Mark Karen Tim and Ben Kemp

[Contact Me](#)

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May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ Dear Brad, Sheri and family. We are so saddened to hear about the passing of your father, grandfather. We look forward to a making special memorial visit to the Norskedalen Heritage and Nature and Center soon.Love, Lorie Bryngelson & Brian Herridge

~

*Lorie Bryngelson,*

*Chaska, Minnesota*

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**Lorie Bryngelson** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ *Dr. Peterson was made of those qualities that helped make this country a beacon to all who cherish Liberty, as endowed by our Creator. It was a great privilege to know him.*

~

*Dick Brostrom,*

*Port Angeles, Washington*

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**Dick Brostrom** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ *My prayers are with the entire family as you grieve his passing and enjoy the fond memories of Dr. Pete's full life.*

~

*Joyce Peterson,*

*Naples, Florida*

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**Joyce Peterson** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM

GR

“ *My sincere condolences to Dr. Peterson's family. It has been a privilege and honor to be a volunteer with him over the past year. I will always cherish the time we spent together at Highview Hills. I will miss him. Grant*

~

*Grant,*

*Lakeville, Minnesota*

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**Grant** - May 09, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *Our Prayers and sincere sympathy are with you in your loss. Dr Peterson leaves a large legacy by his works; but more importantly in that of his wonderful dedicated family. We shall miss him and all of you at Highview Hills. May God Bless You.*

~

*Joe & Nadine Sturlaugson*

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May 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *I've known Dr. Peterson for 30 years. I admired his continued involvement in the affairs of this world. I'll never forget the day I was driving to work and recognized his voice on MPR. I called him when I arrived at work and we had a lively conversation about the topic. God bless him & God bless his family. Alice K.*

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May 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

JA

“ *Paula, Casey and Kayla, Blessings and love to all your family during this hard time.. Your Father had a long and good life and he is with the Lord. Auntie Jan Alexander*

~

*Janet Alexander,*

*Roseville, Minnesota*

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**Janet Alexander** - May 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM



“ *We are saddened to hear of Dr. Peterson's passing. We will always remember him as a wonderful doctor. We speak of him often. William and Joanne Sellner.*

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May 08, 2012 at 12:00 AM

MR

“ So sorry for your loss. I was one of Dr.Palmer's caregivers, it has really made my heart heavy today hearing of his passing. He was such a wonderful man. My prayers our with his family.

~

*Marian Reynolds,*

*Lakeville, Minnesota*

*Contact Me*

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**Marian Reynolds** - May 07, 2012 at 12:00 AM