



Dr. Peter N.Y. Pan

February 1, 1942 - March 12, 2025

Dr. Peter NY Pan, age 83, of Minnetonka, Minnesota, passed away unexpectedly on March 12, 2025, leaving behind a legacy of love, dedication, and brilliance that touched the lives of all who knew him.

Born on February 1, 1943 in New York City, NY to Dr. Wen Yuan and Julia Wen Tsai Pan. Peter was a devoted husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and a man of extraordinary intellect and generosity. He is survived by his beloved wife and soulmate of 61 years, Carolyn, whose love was the foundation of his life. Together, they built a family rooted in compassion, resilience, and an insatiable curiosity for the world. He is also survived by his children, Victoria (Michael) Coaty, Michael (Lisa) Pan, Dr. William (Dr. Sophia) Pan, and Robert (Karen) Pan, along with his cherished grandchildren, Dr. Christopher (Kelly) Coaty, Elizabeth Coaty, Lauryn Pan, Carey Pan, Zoe Pan, Silas Pan, Nathan Pan, and his great-grandchild, Cooper Coaty. His spirit and values will continue to live on through them.

Peter's life was a symphony of passions, with none greater than his devotion to Carolyn, whom he married in 1964 shortly after completing his undergraduate degree at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, where they welcomed their first child. Their journey together began in Texas, where Peter earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Texas Christian University—a milestone that set the stage for his remarkable career in science and innovation.

Peter began his professional journey at General Dynamics in Dallas before joining Continental Can Company in Chicago in 1969, where his inventive mind led to several patents. In 1979, he became President of Thiele Engineering in Minnesota, where his visionary leadership helped the company thrive. Eventually, Peter and Carolyn made the bold decision to purchase Thiele, leaving an enduring mark on the packaging machinery industry through his ingenuity and commitment to excellence.

Beyond his professional achievements, Peter was a man of kindness and adventure. He found great joy in the outdoors, spending time golfing, gardening, camping, and fishing in the Boundary Waters. For 61 years, he and Carolyn traveled the world, exploring dozens of countries across Europe, Asia, and North America. These journeys were often family affairs, weaving a tapestry of shared memories that will be cherished for generations. His generosity knew no bounds; whether mentoring young professionals, quietly helping a struggling young mother in Hawaii pay for her groceries, or coaching youth baseball, where he shaped the lives of countless youth players with his wisdom and encouragement. In retirement, he was Chairman of the Board for Opportunity Partners, where he spearheaded innovative employment and enrichment opportunities for adults with developmental disabilities, including autism, down syndrome, and cerebral palsy. His compassion and belief in the power of small acts of kindness left a lasting impact on those around him.

Above all, Peter's greatest love was his family. He will be remembered for his sharp intellect, steadfast determination, and unwavering devotion to those he cherished. His legacy is one not only of remarkable achievements but of profound love and generosity.

A private memorial service will take place on March 25, 2025, at Washburn McReavy in Edina. In lieu of flowers, the family kindly asks for donations to St.

Jude's (St. Jude Children's Research Hospital) or Doctor's Without Borders (Home ' Doctors Without Borders - USA) in honor of Peter's memory.

Rest in peace, Dr. Peter N.Y. Pan. Your brilliance, kindness, and unwavering love will remain in the hearts of all who were fortunate to know you

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 25 (CT)

Edina Chapel
5000 West 50th & Highway 100
Edina, MN 55436
(952) 920-3996
info@washburn-mcreavy.com

This event is private.

Tribute Wall

RP

“ *Whoa, this hit like a bolder. That man was the best person I ever worked for
I so enjoyed his laugh. He could brighten up any situation ever. We spent a lot of time laughing. I really love working for him. I learned so much from him. It breaks my heart for you guys to lose him that way. May god bless him and you his family. I know god has him in his arms.*

Richard Dick Paglia - January 02 at 05:48 PM

LF

“ *Lois Engle and Family purchased the Days of Sunshine Bouquet for the family of Dr. Peter N.Y. Pan.*



Lois Engle and Family - March 23, 2025 at 09:28 PM

TF

“ *The Munson Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Dr. Peter N.Y. Pan.*



The Munson Family - March 21, 2025 at 09:52 PM

DN

“ *Bill and Sophia,
Just wanted you both to know, I'm so sorry for your great loss.
Keeping you and your entire family in my thoughts and prayers. May
his life be a blessing.*

DonnaMarie Nelms

DonnaMarie Nelms - March 21, 2025 at 05:25 PM