



Howard LeRoy Peterson

September 1, 1929 - November 18, 2018

Peterson, Howard L. Age 89, Eden Prairie, November 18. Preceded in death by sister, Greta Butler. Survived by wife Grace Peterson, daughters Kari, Maren and Andrea. Funeral service Friday, November 30, 11 a.m. at Cross View Lutheran Church, 6645 McCauley Trail West, Edina, MN. Visitation one hour prior at the church. Memorials to Lutheran schools, universities, or seminaries of the donor's choosing. washburn-mcreavy.com Eden Prairie Chapel 952-

Howard LeRoy Peterson was born on September 1, 1929, on the family farm near Northwood, North Dakota, to Engwald and Jessie (nee Thynes) Peterson. His sister Greta was born five years later. He was baptized September 29, 1929, and confirmed November 7, 1943, at Ebenezer Lutheran Church in Northwood. He graduated from Northwood High School in 1947.

Howard's youth was filled with the usual farm boy activities, including hunting with his dad and uncles. He was the first in his family to attend college, graduating from North Dakota State University with a BS in mechanical engineering in 1952.

The search for job opportunities led him to the Twin Cities area where he worked his entire career, beginning with a handful of engineering firms, including Remington Rand Univac, and culminating in a 24-year career with

Control Data. He then worked for almost 20 years as a courier, and retired a second and final time in 2008.

Howard was introduced to his wife Grace, through one of his early bosses who was Grace's uncle. Before the blind date, Uncle Fran told Grace that Howard had a mustache. She recalls thinking to herself when she answered the door, "He really does have a mustache!"

They wed on August 30, 1958, at Pilgrim Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, where Grace had been teaching first grade. Their first daughter Kari was born in December the following year, followed by Maren in 1962 and Andrea in 1965. Howard's "girls" were his pride and joy – enough said.

In 1962 the young family moved into their dream home, designed by Howard, on Duck Lake in Eden Prairie. Grace adorned the yard with her vegetable and flower gardens, and Howard built a special terraced rock garden for her in the backyard patio.

Being a landowner on Duck Lake meant Howard was a conservationist keen on preserving the lake's integrity. In the late 1960s he and other neighbors organized and began what became the Riley-Purgatory-Bluff Creek Watershed District. He served on the board for most of its history including several years as president or chairman, finally retiring in 2009.

Howard was also a charter member of the Minnesota Board of Water and Soil Resources and helped organize the Minnesota Association of Watershed Districts. He traveled statewide for these meetings.

Howard was also an avid supporter of Lutheran education, serving first on the board of directors for Mount Hope Lutheran School in Bloomington and later for several years on the Lutheran High School of Minneapolis board of

directors. He and Grace were matched in their dedication to ensuring their daughters received a Christian education from kindergarten through high school.

Howard was a natural engineer and mechanic – his university degree only made it official. He performed virtually all of his own car repairs, except for large ones such as transmission replacement. His workbenches in the basement and garage always had projects laid out on them.

Howard's commitment to conservation extended to his hunting and fishing pastimes. He was a devoted deer hunter, eagerly planning his annual trips with his hunting buddies and Grace's nephews. Other big game highlights included caribou, moose and bear hunts. Turkey, pheasant, grouse and duck hunting, plus some fishing, rounded out his portfolio.

Howard passed away November 18, 2018, at the age of 89 at Chapel View Care Center in Hopkins, Minnesota, after a short hospital stay. He was preceded in death by his sister Greta. He is survived by his wife of 60 years, Grace, and their three daughters Kari, Maren and Andrea. He is also mourned by his nieces, Greta's daughters, Michelle, Lori, and Gina, and their husbands and children.

The family extends special thanks to the staffs of Methodist Hospital and Chapel View who provided kind, loving and excellent care for Howard the last two weeks of his life. They also are grateful to Pastors Steve Wheeler and Toby Schmidt for their faithful ministry to Howard and his family, providing much-needed comfort and support.

Howard will be buried at Trinity Lutheran Church in Waconia, with a view of the lake, of course. Memorials are preferred to Lutheran schools, universities

and seminaries of the donor's choice.

975-0400

Cemetery Details

Trinity Lutheran Cemetery

East Main Street
Waconia, MN 55387

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 30. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

Cross View Lutheran Church
6645 McCauley Trail W
Edina, MN 55439

Church Service

NOV 30. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (CT)

Cross View Lutheran Church
6645 McCauley Trail W
Edina, MN 55439