



## Robert "Bob" Earl Peterson

February 10, 1927 - August 14, 2010

Age 83 of Fridley, MN. Passed away August 14, 2010. Preceded in death by loving wife, Doraine. Survived by children, Janet Peterson Fischer (Steve Fischer), Rob (Suzanne), and Lisa Peterson-Kinnunen (Kevin Kinnunen) and by Grandson Kolten. Also survived by siblings: Florence Tarr, Edwin (Joyce), Carl (Trudy) and Vern; nieces, nephews, cousins, and many friends. Bob's strong faith permitted him to courageously and gracefully face his final months with melanoma before entering peacefully into the kingdom of heaven and Doraine's open arms. After graduating from Aitkin High School, Bob served in the navy during WWII. He attended Bethel College and then went on to graduate from the University of Minnesota with a BS in Economics. After several jobs in manufacturing and sales, Bob and Doraine founded Peterson Enterprises, a manufacturer's representative agency, in 1965. Bob "officially" retired in 1992 but continued as a consultant to the next generation. Bob was involved in many political and business endeavors throughout his lifetime. Bob was active in the Republican Party including Chairing both the 3rd and 6th Congressional Districts and as a National Delegate both in 1968 and 1984. Bob was a close advisor to Governor Al Quie and was instrumental in Senator Dave Durenberger's run for office. He served on the boards of Woodford Manufacturing, Quality Metal Finishing, Union Brass, Salem Foundation, and Midwest Hebrew Ministries. Bob's Christian commitment led him to give of his time and talents to many philanthropic and community causes including his churches, fundraising for religious organizations, youth coaching, mentoring,

and both city and county planning commissions. He was a longtime member of the Fridley Rotary Club, served in multiple executive roles including President, and was awarded the Paul Harris Award for lifetime achievement. Bob served Gracepoint (Salem Baptist) for over 40 years in many capacities including moderator, trustee, and chair of their Salem Foundation. Bob was intensely devoted to Bethel College, his alma mater, sponsoring scholarships and continuously raising money for both the college and seminary including heading the expansion drive for Bethel Seminary West. In 2006, the Robert E. Peterson Program in Entrepreneurship Management was bestowed in his honor at Bethel University. Bob was a devoted husband to Doraine, navigating 56 years as both marriage and business partners. He became an amazing caregiver for her, faithfully attending to her needs during her 7-year battle with dementia. As a father, providing for his children and granting them every opportunity to achieve success, was important to him. He showed immense love endlessly pulling water-skiers, baiting fishing lines, and faithfully cheering at games and events. Being a grandfather was a cherished role. He loved to attend all of Kolten's sporting events eventually resorting to a cane and a walker as his cancer progressed. Kolten's last Blake lacrosse game was viewed from his SUV's front seat as getting to the stands was impossible. Bob was also an avid outdoorsman and a fanatic Twins fan to his final night. He will be greatly missed by family, friends, and colleagues. Visitation will be Sunday, August 22 from 2-5PM at HOLCOMB-HENRY-BOOM-PURCELL, 515 Hwy 96 at Mackubin, Shoreview (651-482-7606). Memorial service Monday, August 23 at 10:30AM at GRACEPOINT CHURCH; 2351 Rice Creek Road, New Brighton. Memorials preferred to Salem Foundation or Chaplain's Endowment at Waverly Gardens.

# Tribute Wall

BN

“ *In my mind, two words describe Bob Peterson...Class and Character. I met Bob 16 years ago as a young sales manager with Valmont Industries. We would make sales calls on Chicago Tube & Iron, one of his favorite customers. He always displayed a quiet,honest class about himself. He exemplified the professional salesperson in the steel business. I will always appreciate the info I was able to pick up from Bob as a young salesperson. Everyone in Valmont's Tubing Division was saddened by Bobs passing. While I am greatly saddened...I have been blessed to know and work with Bob over the years.*

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**Brad J. Nelson** - August 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

PB

“ *I have fond memories of my first road trip with Peterson Enterprises in the early 80's. Bob and Doraine were so gracious and filled with incredible love and joy for life and the experiences they had shared. Bob helped me greatly with techniques and confidence. My sincere condolences to his family. He touched many lives and I am grateful to have been one of them.*

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**Patti Bigger** - August 23, 2010 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ *Oh the great memories of when we were young. Who would have ever imagined what it would be like without our parents.*

*Lisa, I thought that was very neat to read about your Dad's involvement with Hebrew studies. I have a great interest in that and the Messianic way. I wish I could have talked to him more. He sure was an interesting and successful man and father.*

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**Michele Losey** - August 20, 2010 at 12:00 AM

SZ

“ Elizabeth and I wish to express our most sincere condolences to the entire Peterson family on this very sad occasion. You can however look back on the wonderful and productive life that Bob lived.

*Stan Zalkind*

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**Stanley Zalkind** - August 19, 2010 at 12:00 AM

MH

“ I was sorry to hear about Bob's death. He was a very good friend and we worked together on the Woodford Board for a number of years. Also, knew his son, Rob, well. I know he will be missed by all. You are right, Bob will be in heaven with Doraine. All of you are in my prayers

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**Max Hatfield** - August 18, 2010 at 12:00 AM

TA

“ I would like to extend my condolences to the family of Bob P. on the loss of such a wonderful person. Not having him with us will leave a void for all of us.

*He positively touched so many people and a little bit of him will continue on for generations to come.*

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**Tom Alberts** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

HA

“ To all of the Peterson family and for all those who knew and loved Bob you have been and continue to be in my thoughts and prayers. May God surround you with His grace, peace and strength right now and in the difficult days ahead and may your many sweet memories and time shared with Bob give you comfort on your most trying days. With heartfelt condolences, Heidi Anderson (Steve Anderson's daughter)

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**Heidi Anderson** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM

RT

“ Bob served as Chairman of Midwest Hebrew Ministries for many years. His friendship and leadership will always be remembered and appreciated.

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**Rev. Bruce Talso** - August 17, 2010 at 12:00 AM