



Thomas B Peterson

December 1, 1947 - August 14, 2015

I was born December 1, 1947, in Bellingham, Washington, to father Clyde Peterson, mother Lucy (Meyenburg) Peterson, sisters Frances (Carpenter) Peterson and Alice (Imel) Peterson now deceased and brother Michael Peterson.

I am a lifelong resident of Bellingham. After high school I joined the Navy serving 3 years, one of which was in Vietnam, and I spent a year of duty at the Kodiak Navy Station in Alaska where I met my future wife and the beginning of the best 45 years of my life together with Theresa Ann (O'Neal) Peterson. Together we were so blessed to have 3 sons, Norman and wife Kristin, daughters, Bailey and Riley; Bradley and wife Megan, daughter, Rebekah; Stephen and wife MaryJo, and daughters, Maren and Anneliese, have made such success of themselves that a father could not be more proud.

I have held several jobs consecutively: carpenter with Local #756, long time member of the Fire District #10 as a volunteer serving as Chief and EMT., Navy 3 years, and the Army National Guard 21 years receiving the Bronze Star and The State of Washington Legion of Merit award.

My most satisfying profession was my tour in Iraq. My job was running a maintenance unit to recover, repair, and put back in service vehicles as fast as possible. This job, soldiers taking care of soldiers, was the best job I ever had.

My success in maintenance goes back to my father, Clyde, who never told my brother and me that we couldn't do something. Just put it back together when we're done. Dad passed so many skills down to me and mostly my brother. One thing dad did tell me not to do was touch his brand new double blade axe. I was about 8 years old and nearly cut off my right little toe. Dad saw it happen but never said a word as he saw Mic help me hobble to the house and must have figured a lesson learned. As kids, a great deal of our time was spent clearing the land, burning stumps, picking rocks, cleaning the barn, making hay, running machinery, and hard work, but I wouldn't trade my life for anyone else's.

I have been so blessed with so much support from family and support from Trinity and Grace Lutheran Churches, and the many friends, over the past 2 years that I cannot begin to properly express my gratitude.

The Memorial Service will be held Tuesday, August 25th at 11:00am at Trinity Lutheran Church in Bellingham. Memorials are preferred to : Cancer Center Trials – Peacehealth St. Joseph Medical Center, c/o Carol Brumet, 3301 Squalicum Pkwy, Bellingham, WA 98225.

Have Faith and Belief and I will see you again.

Thank you

Tom

Tribute Wall

BS

“ We remember Tom, the carpenter. He finished our unfinished basement. He was so easy going and interesting to talk with. For 3 months or so, we settled world problems.
Our son, Scott, graduated Sehome with Norman.
What a very, very nice man. He will be missed, but we all have our fond memories.
Bill, Nancy and Scott Stolcis

Bill and Nancy Stolcis - August 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RH

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with you. Tom was at our house and helped Veryl Reamer load a car lift not too long ago and to think that they are both gone. Life is precious. You all have a lot of good memories to look back on.

Russ and Hazel Haggen - August 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ My prayers are with the Peterson family, we will all miss Tom very much. My association with Tom was somewhat limited even though it spanned many years. There are an awful lot of great people in this world but only a limited number that I would rank so highly as this man. I am pleased to have been a small part of his life on earth and look forward to our next meeting.

John Morgan - August 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM

BC

“ Tom had such a strong presence about him as he touched many lives. I will always admire his positive outlook on life and his continued faith in God.

He was always so welcoming, you'd always feel comfortable in his presence. I know he's looking down on all of us that knew him. He has taught us to live life to the fullest. I am grateful that he was my neighbor.

Brittnee Leen Cavitt - August 14, 2015 at 12:00 AM