



Verner Peterson

September 10, 1930 - December 6, 2010

Verner Peterson, 80, Bismarck, passed away peacefully on December 6, 2010, at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center. Services will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, December 13th at First Presbyterian Church, Bismarck, with Rev. Jake Kincaid officiating. Burial will be held at the North Dakota Veteran's Cemetery, Mandan. Visitation will be held from 4 to 8 p.m. Sunday at Parkway Funeral Service, 2330 Tyler Parkway, Bismarck, where a time of sharing will begin at 7:00 p.m. Vern was born September 10, 1930, in Heimdal, North Dakota to Scandinavian immigrants Sigrid Fisketjon and Gustav Petterson. Vern attended Arne School until his family moved to Fargo, where he graduated from Oak Grove High School in 1949. Shortly after high school, Vern entered the Air Force and was stationed in Alaska. Following his honorable discharge in 1954, Vern moved to Bismarck and worked for the Worker's Compensation Bureau. In 1959, Vern married the love of his life, Colleen Carol Kusler, and together they raised their family, traveled the world, and celebrated 51 years as true partners in their walk through life. In 1962, Vern began his 30-year career with Blue Cross, Blue Shield, serving first as a sales representative and then, for many years, as District Manager. Vern was respected by his co-workers for his ability to solve problems, motivate others and build consensus. Vern's positive spirit and optimism characterized his professional as well as his personal life. Vern's favorite pastime was helping others. Whether he was camping, fishing, hunting or just putting around the house, Vern always found a way to be energetically useful, and to make those

around him feel special. His kindness, generosity and big heart brought joy and comfort to many. He had an acute sensitivity to the needs of others and was always there when you needed him. Children were especially attracted to Vern, and he was so proud to have been an active participant in his grandchildren's lives. To the end, Vern's most enduring characteristics were his gentle spirit, ready smile and eagerness to compliment others. Life was fun when Vern was around, prompting his family to name a dance after him! Vern is survived by his wife Carol, his daughter Beth Dr. Jim Hughes, Bismarck, and his son John Julie Peterson, Aurora, Oregon; his grandchildren Caity Hughes, Minneapolis MN, Andrew Hughes, Kelowna, BC, Canada, step-granddaughter, Jessica Bangs, Aurora Oregon, and his twin sister Verna Strand, Helena, MT. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews including Leslee Doug Smith, Bismarck. Vern was preceded in death by his brothers Carl, Albert, Axel and Ernest Petterson, and his sisters Ruby Booker and Ruth Watson. Vern's family wishes to thank the staff at Missouri Slope Lutheran Care Center for the kind and thoughtful care they provided Vern over the last nine months. Memorials in Vern's honor may be sent to the Alzheimer's Association of North Dakota, or a charitable organization of the donor's choice.

Tribute Wall

JG

“ Carol & Family, I am sorry to hear so late of Vern's passing. Carol--you were a bright spot for my mom, Blanche, while she was at Missouri Slope...and she greatly appreciated your visits while you were visiting your loving husband, Vern. I know he will be missed...I can picture him with his ready smile and kind words--what a sweet man! I know he is in heaven with those that passed before him. My love and prayers to you--may you find comfort in his peace, Jennifer & family

Jennifer Blair Goos - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Beth and Dr. Jim Hughes: So sad to hear the passing of your father. He sounds like he was a fine father and a man who walked with honor. You were lucky to have him.

Deb Knuth - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RM

“ Dear Carol and family: It was with great sorrow that we learned the news of Vern's passing away. He was very dear to us and we enjoyed his company when we visited Bismarck and during our trips together. We witnessed how you cared for him to the end and this should bring you much comfort. We realize this is a great loss for all, and we pray to the Lord to bring you the strength to accept His will. GOD BLESS YOU!

Richard and Ceci Mulero - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

AF

“ Carol, don't know if you remember me but wanted to say how sorry I am re Vern's passing. Adeline S. and I were next door neighbors while we lived in Bismarck. My best to you and yours.

Arlene Franchuk - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

RE

“ Carol, So sorry to hear about Vern... He was a pleasure to help while he was on west view. My thoughts & prayers are with you & your family. ReNae Ihringer

renae - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CL

“ Carol, Beth, John and families: Who could have asked for a better neighbor than Vern Peterson? I know that the Lillys' were very lucky to be able to get to live next door to the Petersons'. Gene and Vern had many a conversation and contest to see who could be the first one to blow the snow from the sidewalks on Divide Avenue. What a kind, gentle, caring spirit Vern had and always had a hardy laugh to go with it. Know that he is now whole, happy and remembers all of you and your life together. Bert and I send big hugs your way and know that Bev and Gene were some of the first to greet him when he got to heaven! Please support and love each other through this time of sadness. Celeste Lilly and Bert Kosobud

Celeste Lilly - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

ML

“ Sorry to hear of Verner's passing. I'm sure he will be greatly missed. He was a year ahead of me at Oak Grove, and he got me a job with the Pure Food Store in Fargo which helped me through my first year of ccllege.

Millard & Carol Lee - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

MV

“ Carol and family; We are so sorry to hear of Vern's passing..Please know you are in our thoughts and prayers..His wonderful smily face will truly be missed,he was always the happiest person and thoughtful person. God Bless Pat and Marcy Volk

Marcy Heisler Volk - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

CN

“ Vern was a fine and honorable man. He will be greatly missed.

Cliff Ness - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DK

“ Carol and Family, We are thinking of you at this time with the loss of Vern. We know these last few years have been difficult for all of you. God's peace be with you.

Debbie and Ken Klug - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

JT

“ Vern was a truly great man, he will be missed by many. The staff at Lake Sakakawea State Park have Carol and the entire family in our thoughts.

John Tunge - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

DS

“ Carol, my condolences to you and your family. I've been away from Bismarck for many years but remember Vern sitting at the lunch counter at Woolworth's with my dad and the many life experiences that were shared. Lots of fond memories, your in our prayers.

Darlene Stanley - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM

EB

“ Sorry to see that Vern passed on, although I know his last years were rough going. Vern was a very special person in my life! We had many great days of hunting and fishing together, days which I miss alot. My regrets to Carol and all the offspring. Sincerly Ernie and Kathy Bachmeier

Ernie Bachmeier - March 17, 2015 at 12:00 AM