



## Robert David Peterson

January 17, 1943 - December 7, 2021

Robert David Peterson died on December 7, 2021, at age 78. He was born on January 17, 1943, in rural Winneshiek County Iowa, the youngest of six children to parents Oliver and Annie (Sollien) Peterson. Robert (Bob) grew up in the country outside of Decorah. He graduated from Cresco High School. He served in the Air Force from 1963-67 in Minot, ND, where he worked on airplane electronics. After returning to Iowa, he graduated from University of Northern Iowa (UNI) in Chemistry. He taught high school and then worked at John Deere as a chemical engineer for most of his career. He earned his M.A. in Counseling from UNI and incorporated his degree into his work.

With the ever-present twinkle in his eyes, Bob touched many lives with his kindness and compassion, thoughtful listening skills, and amazing problem-solving abilities. He enjoyed music and blessed people around him with his guitar playing and singing. He had a deep respect for the earth, evidenced by his vegetable, flower, and rain gardens. He was a great supporter of his wife's artwork and always knew how to mat and frame a piece to showcase it.

For the last year of his life, he bravely battled a rare disorder (amyloidosis) and blood cancer. When he passed away at home, he was married 25 years to Dianne Bigler Rider Peterson. He was a bonus dad to 7 kids—Mike Rider (Linda), John Rider (Amelia), Jenny Nehs (John), Diane Bremner (Ron), David Rider (Renee), Shannon Hilscher (Jerome), and Nate Rider (Jennifer)—and numerous beloved nieces, nephews, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. He is survived by his loving wife and siblings Lorraine Ellickson (Murietta, CA)

and Carol Bolson (Decorah, IA).

Robert was preceded in death by Oliver and Annie Peterson (parents), sister Beulah (John A.) Shindelar, sister Sylvia (Blaine) Roberts, brother Alton (Eldie) Peterson, and brother-in-law Spencer Bolson.

A visitation will be held from 9:30-11 am on Friday, December 17, 2021, at First United Methodist Church, 718 Clay Street, Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613, with a celebration of life and luncheon immediately following. Masks are highly encouraged. Online guestbook at [www.richardsonfuneralservice.com](http://www.richardsonfuneralservice.com). Family will direct memorial donations to [www.amyloidosisupport.org](http://www.amyloidosisupport.org) and other organizations in Bob's honor.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

DEC 17. 9:30 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
718 Clay Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
<http://aboutfirst.com>

## Celebration of Life

DEC 17. 11:00 AM (CT)

First United Methodist Church  
718 Clay Street  
Cedar Falls, IA 50613  
<http://aboutfirst.com>

# Tribute Wall



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket* was purchased for the family of Robert David Peterson.



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December 16, 2021 at 01:01 PM



“ *Full Of Love Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Robert David Peterson.



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December 15, 2021 at 04:23 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Robert David Peterson.



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December 15, 2021 at 02:41 PM

OM

“ I had the honor of having a super friend in Bob since we were 15. We spent so much time together working on cars, finding parts for his endless everloving studebakers!! We both went to Ridgeway HS and Crestwood HS and we both served in the Air Force. We enjoyed many good times with Bob and Dianne. He will be greatly missed and my condolences to you Dianne

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**Orvin Melaas** - December 15, 2021 at 12:26 PM



“ Beautiful Dreams was purchased for the family of Robert David Peterson.



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December 14, 2021 at 11:41 PM

NH

“ Sorry to learn of Bob's passing. We were classmates and friends at Luther College. My deepest sympathy to Bob's and Diane's family. RIP Bob.

*Norman Hjelmeland*

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**Norman Hjelmeland** - December 13, 2021 at 02:00 PM

JK

“ I met Bob on my first day at John Deere, over 20 years we became good friends and shared work duties, went fishing with our good friend Sam, and worked on cars together. I remember calling him after we had painted a Toyota with paint from a guy who gave us a gallon from a barrel he had, apparently he did not stir it as after a couple days it still wasn't dry! But at least the car was one color! And we may have had a beer or two occasionally! I feel blessed to have visited with him just a week before his demise, RIP Bob it was great to have known you!

*Condolences to Diane and all the kids!*

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jack kimberley - December 11, 2021 at 11:18 AM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Robert David Peterson.



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December 11, 2021 at 10:25 AM