



Allen Peters

March 24, 1928 - March 7, 2016

Allen R. "Pete" Peters passed away peacefully at his Corvallis home on March 7, 2016, at the age of 87, surrounded by his family.

He was born on Sept. 24, 1928, in Long Beach, California, to Allen and Margaret (Murphy) Peters. Pete grew up in Portland and attended Columbia Prep and Grant High School before enlisting in the US Navy at the age of 17. He served on the USS New Jersey and USS New Kent in World War II. He attended Vanport College until recalled to active duty aboard the USS Jupiter in the Korean combat zone.

Pete attended Lewis & Clark College before enrolling at the University of Oregon, graduating with a bachelor's degree in journalism (advertising) and history. While at U of O he played varsity football as a 147 pound linebacker and was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity.

Pete began his career in advertising sales at the Corvallis Gazette-Times. He served as Advertising Director, General Manager and Assistant to the Publisher before retiring in 1985 after 30 years. During his tenure with the paper, he oversaw construction of the "new" GT building at Sixth and Jefferson and helped prepare the Mount St. Helens contingency plan for the Lee Enterprise papers in the Western US. While he was once told by the publisher to "stay out of the newsroom," a quote from the paper's coverage of

his retirement referred to him as “Mr. GT,” the guy who got phone calls at all hours if people didn’t like what they read in the paper. Pete was part of the local business community’s effort to woo Hewlett Packard and Fred Meyer to town.

He was active in many community organizations including Corvallis Jaycees (president), The Elks Club, Rotary Club of Corvallis (president, Paul Harris Fellow) and The Benton County Foundation Board. He assisted with fundraising campaigns for Good Samaritan Hospital and the Corvallis Library expansion. However, as the Benton County fundraising rep for U of O’s Autzen Stadium project, he held the dubious distinction of raising the least amount of money!

Pete married OSU Nutrition Instructor Jean McLeod on July 11, 1959. They had 56 great years and enjoyed travel all over the United States, to countries in Asia, Europe and South America, as well as Australia and New Zealand. Some of these trips were in conjunction with Rotary International Conventions and the Peters’ home was often the host to visiting Rotarians and Rotary exchange students. Pete and Jean frequently spent time at the vacation home they built at Tollgate near Sisters.

While a loyal Duck, Pete was also a genuine Beaver fan and attended many home and away football games through the years. After retirement he discovered computers and digital photography. During a few years as snow birds to Arizona, he took up jewelry making and liked to share his knowledge of computers with other seniors. His favorite photography subject was his five beloved grandchildren and he took numerous photos at concerts, plays, sporting events or birthdays. Family, friends and families of other children in the photos received Pete’s refrigerator magnet photos. He was known for creating funny cards for every occasion and his annual “Peters Gazette” at Christmas.

He is survived by his wife Jean; daughter Kathy Dooley (Shawn) of Bellingham, Washington; son Steve Peters (Cathy) of Corvallis; and grandchildren Meagan Dooley, Nikki Peters, Kellen Dooley and Lexi Peters.

He was preceded in death by his sister, Marie Boesch, and grandson Zach Peters.

Thank you to Benton Hospice Service for their compassionate care and assistance to Pete and his family.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Benton Community Foundation's Peters Family Fund that awards annual scholarships to Benton County high school students entering OSU to study in the College of Health and Human Services.

A memorial service will be at 10 a.m. Saturday, March 19, at McHenry Funeral Home, followed by a celebration of life at the Corvallis Country Club.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 19. 10:00 AM (PT)

McHenry Funeral Home
206 NW 5th St.
Corvallis, OR

Tribute Wall

DT

“ Sincere condolences to Jean & family during this sad time. Pete was a wonderful man.

He & Jean opened up their home for a week to my family back in the late '80's because our middle school aged son chose "anywhere" in Oregon for our family vacation! Pete played golf with my Dad in PA one time. When my Dad heard Pete lived in Oregon, he jokingly said "my grandson says he wants to visit Oregon someday" (not hinting either).

That's all Pete needed to hear & the invitation was put out there!

Pete & Mike became pen pals and Mike was the hit of 4th grade to have an adult pen pal who lived in Oregon & was a retired newspaper editor. Needless to say, Pete & Jean showed us a great time & were the most gracious hosts.

Pete will be missed by all who knew him. Thanks for sharing him with so many.

*John & Deb Tighe
Harrisburg, PA*

Deb Tighe - March 30, 2016 at 07:01 AM

PH

“ We were really very sorry to hear sad news a couple of days ago about the loss of "Pete" Allen Peter. We extend our most sincere condolences to Pete's wife Jean, to his children, grand children and to entire family and friends.

We consider Pete as close and true friend in spite of fact we never met him in person and each of us lived at opposite sides of the globe.

Our 16 years old son Peter attended Rotary International Student Exchange Program in 2001 and spent one year in families in Corvallis. Pete was very first man who contacted us immediately after terrorists attacks to Twins in New York. It was only two weeks after

Peter's arrival to the USA. Pete informed and ensured us that Peter will be safe and all people in Corvallis would do their best for his security. It was the start of true and long-term friendship which lasted till current time. He used to inform and send us pictures from each Rotary event where Peter participated.

We were in contact for 15 years and we shared same values of humanity and freedom which joined us. He was also photographer and he liked and commented my photos from jazz events.

We consider it as a big pity we had not any chance to meet him in person.

Thank you very much for everything, Dear Pete, for your kindness and friendship. We will keep you in our hearts. We will miss you Pete. Lot of love - Peter and Ludmila Hladky, Slovakia with sons Michal and Peter

Peter and Ludmila Hladky - March 15, 2016 at 04:57 AM

AC

“ How lucky can a person be to have known Pete in business and friendship. I was hired by Pete in 1975 and have always regarded my GT work experience as the most fun. Pete encouraged creativity so we would keep moving forward. He was a guide, he listened and challenged us. Pete allowed us to experiment and learn. He celebrated our successes. Pete was the leader of our band. Your smile says it all Pete -- you embraced life. Thanks for the opportunity to work for you and to know you as a friend. May all of our memories comfort Jean and the Peters family.

Angela Carmen - March 14, 2016 at 08:49 PM

JG

“ In 1978 Pete passed up several experienced applicants for a Gazette-Times department head position to hire me. He said my lack of experience in this case was a good thing because he wanted to change the direction of the department and wanted someone with no preconceived ideas.

Pete was like that, willing to take a chance on someone and support him or her. I made a few mistakes but Pete was never upset as long as I could define where I went wrong and how to avoid it the next time. And he always celebrated the successes.

When I left the G-T for a non-department head position at a larger newspaper Pete, as I learned later, called the publisher and told him I should be the department head. I'm not certain exactly what Pete said but it worked because a month later I was promoted to the position.

Though in later years our contact dwindled to annual Christmas cards and an occasional email I still consider Pete a great friend and mentor.

My thoughts are with Jean and family.

Jim Gregory

Jim Gregory - March 14, 2016 at 08:09 PM

DB

“Pete is a wonderful man, husband, father, and businessman. He left a very large footprint on the city of Corvallis and with all who had the privilege of knowing him.

He had an incredible love of people and that is why so many love him in return. I had a genuine blessing to grow up with the family and to know Pete. Everyone in our neighborhood considered the Peters home to be our second home, thanks to Pete and Jean.

For people far and wide, Pete is an inspirational man. Thank you, Pete, for who you are!!

Dan Botti

Dan Botti - March 14, 2016 at 03:52 PM

PL

“What a sweet sweet man! I am feel so fortunate to have known him. I will always remember watching him surrounded by all his "things" that he couldn't part with . He wanted to downsize to move but he kept picking up things and putting them back to keep so they moved with him. And...Jean and Pete with their fridge covered with all the pictures of their beloved kids and grandkids. Loved his emails too! He is going to be missed by many.

Jean, Kathy and Steve...so sorry for this great loss ...praying for you all.

Patty Lorenzen

Patty Lorenzen - March 13, 2016 at 10:25 AM