



William "Bill" Bartley Peterson

November 4, 1948 - July 8, 2021

William "Bill" Bartley Peterson was, by all accounts, a Renaissance man. Born on November 4th, 1948, Bill was a star student-athlete, and he was also the star of his high school's musicals. As a boy, he raised horses, cows, pigs, and chickens and loved helping his dad on the farm, but always kept an eye to the future and found excitement in watching technology evolve. He was an enormously talented artist, illustrating, painting, carving and sculpting beautiful works worthy of any art gallery and captivating to all that got the privilege of witnessing his creativity. He was a poet and a storyteller, creating the most eloquent of writings. He was an engineer and a self-taught expert in construction. He could tear apart entire houses and remodel them into the most perfect, beautiful places to live. He built fish ponds and gardens and porches with his bare hands, creating peaceful spaces for all to enjoy. Bill was a perfectionist and believed in always putting in hard work and doing things right. To him, the little things mattered.

Bill was also an Army combat veteran, voluntarily serving two tours in Vietnam. He was a hero to many of his soldiers, earning their long-standing respect that lasted far beyond their time in service. He returned to Carrollton after the war and put his love of both sports and writing to great use as a sports writer for The Free Press Standard newspaper, thus beginning a 45-year-long career in journalism. He rose through the ranks as Editor and then General Manager, during which time he modernized the weekly paper to

adapt to changing times, while still maintaining the hometown look and feel that readers have enjoyed for years.

Many knew Bill to be quiet and sometimes rough around the edges, but beneath that tough exterior, he had a heart of gold. He showed his kindness through actions, often dropping everything to help others in need. His support for others was strong, but he reserved his deepest love for his family. He loved working outside in the yard and taking Sunday drives with Barbie, his wife and dedicated caregiver of 44 years. The king of the road trip, he would jump in his truck and travel across Ohio and across the country to see his son and daughter play sports and, later on, to visit them and their families. Bill enjoyed debating world issues with his daughter and helping his son work on his house. He adored and cherished playing with his six grandchildren. He would dance with them on his porch and play tractors out in the dirt.

There is nothing William Bartley Peterson couldn't do, and there is nothing he wouldn't do for the people he loved. William truly led a life well lived, one of integrity, honor and love. He passed away at his home on July 8th, 2021 surrounded by loved ones.

Loved ones that cleared the path for Bill are his father William Emerson Peterson and mother Genevieve Peterson. Loved ones that will dearly miss Bill until they meet again are his wife Barbara Peterson, his daughter and son-in-law, Jasmine and Rashidi Hodari, his son and son's fiancée, Targan Peterson and Tielle Miller, his six grandchildren, Brookx, Hudson, and Shealeigh Peterson and Clyve, Willa, and Bodhi Hodari, his five siblings, Judy (Lynn) Capper, Peggy (Craig) Deibel, Susie (Blink) McCorkle, Becky (Micah) Hartong, and Lanny (Kendra) Peterson, and forty nieces, nephews, great nieces, and great nephews. He is also survived by his beloved dog and best friend, Ellie.

According to Bill's wishes, he will be cremated, and there will be no formal services. In lieu of flowers and in fulfilling one of Bill's requests, the family asks that you make a donation to All Kids Play, a nonprofit his daughter and son-in-law co-founded to help financially disadvantaged families and communities access youth sports. Bill loved sports and was his kids' biggest fan. He was the ultimate sports dad and supporter of local athletic teams. It was important to him that all kids have the opportunity to play. Dedicated donations can be made at <https://allkidsplay.org/donate/> or sent to: All Kids Play, 707 Osterman Ave #378, Deerfield, IL 60015.

Tribute Wall

RG

“ *Lanny and Family- Sending our heartfelt condolences to each of you during your loss.*

Ron & Jackie Green - July 16, 2021 at 08:52 PM

AH

“ *Dear Peterson family, please accept my deepest sympathies and sincere condolences on the passing of your loved one, Bill. He was a steady rock and a good man! My thoughts and prayers are with all of you during these difficult times. May God continue to be a source of strength.*

Ajili Hodari - July 15, 2021 at 01:01 AM

CS

“ *Back in the early 70's, Bill covered the girls' sports I was involved in. A lot of us athletes became friends with him because we could see his genuine fairness for all sports. One fond memory I have is from 1975, when he drove a carload of us to Columbus to watch the OHSAA State Track Meet. It happened to be on the day of my Senior graduation. He had to drive like mad to get us back to Carrollton in time to march. We pulled in to the Fairgrounds in a cloud of dust just in time for us to file into the line of students marching to Pomp and Circumstance. Thanks for the memories, Bill. You will never be forgotten.*

Crystal Anderson Spicer - July 13, 2021 at 08:34 PM

PL

“ I truly enjoyed every minute I ever spent talking to Bill. Of course we shared a love for the Lady Warriors Basketball program, Jas., and Carrollton, so we always had a lot to talk about. He was a gem of a person who loved his family, friends and community! R.I.P. Bill Peterson

Pepper Locke - July 13, 2021 at 12:50 PM

KH

“ I knew Bill for many years through the early days at the newspaper then all the years after helping him get into the computer age for the paper. He was the right man for what he did through his love for Carrollton.
I considered him one of my friends and will miss him.
Condolences to the family that I know he loved unconditionally.
KEN HARVEY

Ken Harvey - July 13, 2021 at 05:15 AM

DM

So sorry for your loss Barb

Duane McConnell - July 13, 2021 at 09:31 AM

MN

“ So sorry for your loss. The family is in our thoughts and prayers.

Marion and Judi Noble - July 12, 2021 at 10:10 PM

LB

“ Billy...we always called him that, whenever I saw him, he always had a twinkle in his eye. I enjoyed our volleyball talks. He cared greatly about his community and the people in it. Thinking of all his loved ones, praying for peace in their hearts. Barb, you were a great support and loving caregiver. Love to all. I miss my dad everyday. It is hard to love but so worth it.

lori bryan - July 12, 2021 at 09:03 PM

CS

“ I have so many great memories of my brother-in-law. I'm so glad I got to see him (twice) while in Ohio. Barb, Jasmine and Targan took wonderful care of him. He will be missed!

Carolyn Saltsman - July 12, 2021 at 06:51 PM

SL

“ This is such a tremendous loss to the town of Carrollton! Barb, Jasmine, Targan & families ~ you are all in my thoughts & prayers. May the wonderful memories you shared with him soon turn your tears of sorrow to ones of laughter & joy. My heart is with you all ❤️

Sandi Lyon - July 12, 2021 at 05:56 PM

CR

“ So sorry for your loss. You all are in our thoughts & prayers! Poppa Bill will definitely be missed!

Chad, Wendy & Kaylee Russell

Chad Wendy Russell - July 12, 2021 at 04:32 PM

DA

“ *Sending our sincere condolences to Barb and all of Bill's family.
Keeping you all in our thoughts and prayers.
Sincerely, Bill and Doreen Abrahims*

Doreen Abrahims - July 12, 2021 at 04:23 PM