



Darrell Lee Peterson

October 4, 1952 - October 7, 2021

Following a swift course with ALS, beloved husband and father Darrell “Darry” Lee Peterson passed peacefully from this life to the next on October 7, 2021, at the age of 69. He was surrounded by family.

Darrell grew up in Chico, California and completed a bachelor’s degree in Physics at Caltech. He continued his studies, completing a PhD in Physics from Brigham Young University where he met his true love, Carol Jean Johnson. His scientific endeavors culminated in a distinguished career of 32 years as a nuclear weapons physicist for the Los Alamos National Laboratory, where he was the recipient of numerous awards and honors.

Although he would never admit it, Darrell was a skilled artist and musician, and a superb teacher. He was also an avid fan of comics (especially Peanuts) and all things Disney. He served faithfully as a missionary in Germany for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and in many callings afterward, dedicating countless hours in the service of others. Above all, he was passionate about raising his children alongside his loving wife of 43 years, and in playing with and delighting his grandchildren. Brilliant, deeply committed to the gospel, and full of humor, Darrell brought joy and laughter to all of those around him.

He is survived by his wife, brothers Dale and Brian (Pamela), sons Eric (Natalie), Brandon (Michal), Neil (Rebecca), Sean (Jennie), and Brian (Jill), as well as many nieces, nephews, and 12 grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be at 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints building located at 422 East 400 South, Vineyard, UT. Viewing will be at the church one hour prior to the services. Burial will follow the services at the Orem City Cemetery.

To view the services online please click the link below.

<https://youtu.be/z5vrB89nnyo>

Tribute Wall

BR

“ *In the Fall of 1970, in my second year at Caltech, I was a homework grader for a section of calculus. Darrell was so happy that he was able to solve a particularly difficult problem, that he wrote on his paper: MATH IS GROOVY.*

I picked this up this phrase as my personal motto, had it on my door for many years, first as a student, and then as a math professor at various schools. Darrell and I had a very nice email conversation in 2009 where we confirmed our memories of the origins of MATH IS GROOVY.

I offer my deepest condolences to the friends and family of Darrell Peterson.

Bruce Reznick - March 03 at 09:52 PM

JP

“ *I love that Darrell taught me a lot at church - one of my favorites! He always normalized how I was feeling about the topic. He made every topic easy to understand. Love the Peterson family! My thoughts are with you! Much Love!*

Julie Parkinson - October 18, 2021 at 06:51 PM

JC

“ *Darrell was a kind man to my children when they were young. He would draw Disney characters for them, which would become cherished pieces of art hung on bedroom walls.*

Darrell was influential in helping me learn how to teach the gospel as Jesus wanted. I think often of the things he has taught me.

Jeremy Conlin

Jeremy Conlin - October 15, 2021 at 07:37 AM

TH

“ We have many wonderful memories of visiting the Darrell and Carol Peterson family. We Home Teachers were always well received and appreciated. I enjoyed the discussions and interesting information we shared together. I remember the recommendations Darrell would make on which movies we should watch particularly those that he deemed humorous and worthy of watching. I enjoyed teaching most of their sons in Priests Quorum. Our children really liked Darrell as a Sunday School teacher and were very disappointed when he was released.

I remember how impressed Darrell was when I backed up the U Haul trailer into your driveway when Sean was moving. A small thing, but a good memory nonetheless.

We send our love and condolences at this most difficult time.

Terry and Jan Helm

Terry Helm - October 10, 2021 at 11:02 PM

CB

“ This knocks me for a loop. He's just too young! What a gifted man he was! Always loved his classes. I will always remember the classes he taught on Isaiah because I learned so much. He was a gifted guitarist as well. I am so sorry, Carol, for you and the boys. The years we shared in White Rock will always be remembered. My love to you all, from Cleone and Dwight.

Cleone Barrus - October 10, 2021 at 08:11 PM

BA

“ My sincere condolences to the whole family. My main memory of Darrell is that he never minded extra kids running around, made us feel welcome. That's not always easy, and I appreciate him for it.

Bryce Adams - October 09, 2021 at 11:51 PM