



Orville Banks Petersen

May 27, 1926 - November 23, 2018

Orville “Pete” Banks Petersen, 92, died Nov. 23, 2018 of complications of old age and cancer. He was the youngest of nine children, born May 27, 1926 in Salt Lake City to Peter Melvin Petersen and Viona Leta Banks. His oldest sibling was 19 when he was born.

He began school in 1931 when the Depression of the ‘30s was at its worst, but he had a happy childhood nonetheless. In his childhood he lived in an apartment on the block north of Temple Square where the Conference Center of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints now stands. At about age 12 he acquired the nickname “Pete” among friends, but to his parents and siblings he was always Orville.

He was a proud graduate of West High School and the University of Utah. Here he made lifelong friends and had fond memories of teachers and classmates whom he considered a blessing in his life. In his 80s, he chaired several West High class reunions, bringing together high school friends from three different graduating classes of the 1940s.

On his 18th birthday in 1944 he received a letter requesting he report for active duty in the United States Army. He reported to Fort Douglas in Salt Lake City on June 2, six days after receiving the letter. A veteran of World War II, he served as an airplane mechanic in the Army Air Corps in the United States and Europe.

From 1949-1950 he served a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Ontario, Canada. Here he met his future wife and the love of his life, Bonnie Jean Eyre.

On May 29, 1952 the two were married in the Salt Lake Temple. They shared 57 wonderful years until her death on Feb. 2, 2009. He is survived by their four children, Michael (Laurie), Brent (Jeri), Julianne, and David (Sharon), 10 grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

He was a lifelong member of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He served

faithfully in many different callings, including bishopric counselor, High Priest Group assistant and thirteen years as a ward clerk.

His working career was in the wholesale home appliance distributing industry. For 30 years he was a member of the Holladay Rotary Club where he served for a time as president.

He and Bonnie Jean loved to travel and saw much of the world. The family also took numerous driving and camping trips across the western US in their station wagon.

On a humorous note, he had a resemblance to Wendy's hamburger founder Dave Thomas. In 1996 he was one of five finalists in the chain's national Dave Thomas look-alike contest. He and Bonnie Jean traveled to New York City for the finals.

He was forever learning, never afraid to ask questions and discover new things. After Bonnie Jean passed, he enrolled in several continuing education classes at the University of Utah. His favorite was one taught by poet and writer Emma Lou Thayne in which he began writing stories of his life. The class led to a six-year association with a group of ladies from the class. He looked forward to his "homework" each month, and his family is blessed by having his stories.

He was known for his sense of humor and never met a stranger. He was quick to say hello and give a smile to everyone he met.

Funeral services will be held at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 1, 2018 in the LDS chapel at 3070 E. Nila Way in Holladay, Utah. A viewing will be Friday, Nov. 30, 6:00-8:00 p.m. at the chapel, and from 9:30-10:45 a.m. on Saturday prior to the funeral.

Interment will be at the Murray City Cemetery, 5490 Vine Street, Murray, Utah.

Comments



“ I absolutely loved Uncle Pete! He always made me feel like he loved and cared about me. One of my favorite uncles. He had such a fun lively personality. He will be missed. You are in our thoughts and prayers. So thankful for his influence and example in my life!
- Layne Eyre

Layne Eyre - December 01 at 12:15 AM



“ The picture at left truly reflects Uncle Orville. He always seemed happy and make everyone around him happy. He always had a joke or funny story for any occasion and his laugh was contagious. We lived just west of him in the 1980s and 90s. Our daughters started calling him Uncle Frank. The church where his services are being held became "Frank's Church." We never learned where the "Frank" came from, but he always played along. I was out of town and my wife called Orville to have a refrigerator delivered. She trusted his taste. Thirty plus years later, the frig died. I jokingly called Orville to ask about the warranty. He quickly responded that it expired last week.

We love him and send our condolences to his family. We will miss the era that passes with him.

Love, JIm and Margaret Petersen and family.

JAMES PETERSEN - November 29 at 09:38 PM



“ Thanks for sharing those memories. Dad always thought so highly of you.

Brent - November 30 at 03:57 PM



“ “Pete” will ever be remembered as our father Joe Smith’s best friend and missionary colleague. Both graduated from West High School and served in the Eastern Canadian mission headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. Both Pete/Bonnie and our Dad Joe/Jeannette planned and made happen multiple joint family camps and gatherings, and from those experiences our two families feel like we’re family. And after Pete’s Bonnie passed and our Mom’s Joe passed, Pete and Mom/Jeannette continued the friendship forged over decades and met regularly for lunch and concerts at which they reminisced about the “Good Old Days” and the love they both had for their respective spouses and friends. We, and especially our dear mother Jeannette will miss the connection Pete was to our father/husband. I also personally enjoyed my regular association with Pete as he came to my office annually for his eye examinations. He always made our staff and me have a brighter day and a smile

and laugh when he visited. Heaven is a little more bright and fuller with laughter now that Orville "Pete" is there. Until we meet again Pete! God Bless You, for you have truly blessed us!

Dr. Doug Smith, Bountiful, Utah

Doug Smith - November 28 at 07:31 PM



“ Thanks for sharing. He indeed loved your mom and dad.

Brent - November 30 at 04:59 PM



“ Wow! How do you describe a lifetime of smiles into one comment? You see everytime I saw "dad," he was smiling that twinkling smile of his. Even when he didn't feel well or when he had to say a temporary goodbye to his beloved sweetheart he was smiling. Dad just twinkled, especially when I'd see him look at his sweet Bonnie or at my sister/friend Julianne. To Pete Petersen there was the gospel of his Savior Jesus Christ, there was his Bonnie, there was his children and grandchildren, and there were his friends and neighbors. Those were his "treasures," and therein lay his heart. God be with you "dad" until we meet again.

Julie Dockstader Heaps - November 28 at 06:11 PM



“ Mike and Laurie, so sorry to hear about the loss of your father.. Please accept our sincere condolences at this sad time. Sincerely, Scott and Mary Cowan and family.

Scott Cowan - November 28 at 01:56 PM



“ Pete was such a kind a fun man, a dear friend to my Dad Hank Cameron who will really miss Pete. I loved to hear him sing" Utah Man Sir". Sending love and sympathies to all his family! Sincerely, Kay Cameron

Kay Cameron - November 28 at 12:24 PM



“ My wife and I have enjoyed the great privilege of living as a next-door neighbors to Pete and his lovely wife and family since 1980. I often looked for him to be out in his yard just to greet him and let his wonderful personality and positive attitude cheer me up. Very few people have the infectious attitude and upbeat outlook that Pete always had -- and always will have. The great people beyond the veil are gratefully celebrating the arrival of another wonderful spirit.

Stan and Connie Cloward

STANLEY J CLOWARD - November 28 at 09:38 PM



“ The picture at left reflects the true Uncle Orville. He always seemed happy and made everyone around him feel happy. He had jokes and fun things to talk about for every occasion. We were fortunate to live just west of Uncle Orville in the 1980s and 90s. To our daughters he became Uncle Frank and the church where his services are being held became Uncle Frank's church. Where the "Frank" came from we never knew, but he loved our children and played along. He was quick witted and it was always funny. I was out of town and Margaret called Uncle Orville to have a refrigerator delivered. She trusted his taste. Thirty plus years later, the fridge died. I called Uncle Orville to kid him about the warranty. He quickly responded that the warranty expired last week.

We love him and miss the era that has passed with him. We send our condolences to his family.

Love, Jim and Margaret Petersen and our children

JAMES PETERSEN - November 29 at 10:13 PM



“ As a friend in his writing group from Emma Lou's class at the "U", I express sadness and condolences at Pete's passing.

He was a great writer, witty, always cheerful, generous, amazingly bright for his age, and never missed a gathering that I remember in the 6 years that we met. He was a shining light, always making us feel good about ourselves, and often brought gifts and treats for everyone. I would call him "The salt of the earth", a very fine and respected man with complete integrity. I am grateful to have known him. We will miss him!

Diane McMaster

diane mcmaster - December 01 at 12:02 AM