



## Marvin Kenneth Peterson

August 6, 1931 - December 6, 2016

MARVIN K. PETERSON August 1931 ~ December 2016 A "REEL SWEDE"  
Marvin was born in Bismarck, North Dakota to Ruth and Ludwig Peterson, both of whom were born in the northern area of Sweden. Marvin was always proud of his pure Swedish Heritage. The family lived and grew up in Bismarck, however, Marvin left at the age of 18. When he was 9 years old, he was playing hide and seek with his cousins on his grandparent's farm and was bitten by a rattlesnake. He was in the hospital for a week recovering, and later testified in the North Dakota congress that there were too many rattlers. The result was a bounty of .25 cents created for the capture of rattlesnakes with the bounty staying in effect until 1961. Marvin was the second oldest of five children in the Peterson family. Laverne (Hagen), Ruth (Evans), Donald and Jim. In the summers, he would go to his grandparent's farm in Flasher, ND to work. However, he talked about doing a lot of pheasant hunting and fishing, too. The love of fishing lasted throughout his entire life, lamenting that he was physically unable to board a boat in his last two years of life. He came to Portland, OR when he was 18, looking for work. After doing some hard labor jobs for 6 months, he applied to the SP&S Railroad to be a brakeman and was employed in July, 1951. It wasn't long before he got a draft notice from the Army, but because of his love of the sea, he quickly enlisted in the Navy, for which he was always very proud. After boot camp and radar school, Marvin received his orders to serve on the USS Gurke, a destroyer assigned to fight in the Korean War. He received an honorable discharge from the Navy in May,

1953. After the Navy, Marvin came back to Portland and worked for the SP&S again. In August, 1955, Marvin asked Carol Mather out for a ride in his new '55 Buick 2 plus 2. They had only spoken before this evening on the telephone as Marvin was a friend of Carol's roommate. They fell in love and were married in Portland, OR in March 1956. They bought a home in the St. Johns area of Portland and welcomed their first child, Barbara in March 1957. Then, in November, 1958, they were blessed with another girl, Patricia. During this time, Marvin bought a duplex in Portland as an investment. It was the first apartment of many more to come, that they would acquire. In June, 1959 Marvin moved his family to Vancouver, WA, where he resided the rest of his life. Marvin and his father started building homes and were successful in selling 8 that they had built. In 1964, Marvin struck out on his own and started building apartments. His first was a 4-plex. Then it was an 8-plex, then a series of apartment complexes. Then a new development was begun in the outskirts of Vancouver - Cascade Park! It was proposed that we build 15 homes there, so before roads, before utilities, we took the plunge! No one would buy a home that far out!!! In the meantime, Marvin was building homes for the family, too. They would sell all too quickly, and we moved 5 times in a two year span! And during this hectic time of life, a son was welcomed into the family - James (Jim) in December, 1966. As construction was taking up too much of his time, Marvin was faced with the choice of railroad or build. He chose building and quit the railroad in 1972. During these years, Marvin and Carol traveled extensively, played tennis, belonged to organizations and enjoyed life when not working. Marvin took son, Jim on fishing trips to Alaska, where they had a lot of great fishing and good stories to tell. Marvin was still fishing as often as he could. He finally bought his own boat in 1990, the "Reel Swede" and started making annual August journeys to Pender Harbour, B.C., first with friends and then as grandchildren came into the family, they joined us along with their parents. Our grandchildren, to this day, say that their Pender Harbour memories are the best memories of their childhood. Marvin is survived by his wife, Carol of 60 years; children: Barbara (Paul) Bersani,

Patricia Peterson, James Peterson; grandchildren, Stephen (Rudi) Bersani, Rem Baumann, Anna Bersani, Peter and Jared Baumann; siblings: Ruth Evans, Donald (Barbara) Peterson, Jim (Chrispy) Peterson and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his sister, Laverne, father, Ludwig, and mother, Ruth. We wish to thank the Ray Hickey Hospice House for their wonderful and loving care of Marvin at the end. In lieu of flowers, please consider donating to the Ray Hickey Hospice House or Veterans of Foreign Wars. At Marvin's wish, there will not be a funeral, but a Celebration of Life will be held at a later date. Please sign his guestbook at: [www.evergreenmemorialgardens.com](http://www.evergreenmemorialgardens.com) and at [www.columbian.com/obits](http://www.columbian.com/obits)

# Tribute Wall



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**Evergreen Memorial Gardens** - July 03, 2025 at 07:55 PM



“ As kids, Jim and I spent a bunch of time together playing in the woods behind Jim's house and in his basement game room. I have many fond memories of Marvin and his interaction with all the kids of the neighborhood. I remember that Marvin put together wood kits for us to build bird houses for Y-indian guides when we were about 6 years old. My blue bird house still sits in a tree at my parents house. I recall many trips to Skamania, Sunriver, and also a trip to Palm Springs as we grew up. Marvin was always very generous, treating us to nice dinners, ice cream, and activities. Marvin was a fine man and I will miss him.

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**Grant Gehrman** - January 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM



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**Grant Gehrman** - January 04, 2017 at 12:00 AM

AM

“ We are so sorry. We so appreciated meeting Marvin and all of you at your annual Christmas gathering. Barb has been immense help and counsel with our real estate questions. Blessings to you all and to the extended family. Peace be with you.

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**Arne/Stella Mortensen** - December 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JP

“ I enjoyed many fishing trips with Marvin from Barkley Sound in Canada to Tillamook Bay in Oregon. Marvin was always the life of the party. He will be missed.

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**Joe Palena** - December 13, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JB

“ Our sincere condolences for Marvin. He was a good man, a family man, a self made man. Always had open arms when the Bersani family from Chicago visited. He will be missed. Our prayers are with all of you. Love, Joe, Brenda and Nicole.

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**Joe Bersani** - December 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

TE

“ Our condolences.

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**Tom & Cheryl Effinger** - December 12, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JW

“ We remember the good times we had with you both. We are sorry for your loss and if we can be of any help to you, please let us know. Ernie and Virginia

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**J. Ernest Weinberg** - December 11, 2016 at 12:00 AM