



Donald Rubert Peterson

November 7, 1956 - January 3, 2022

Donald "Buck" Rubert Peterson, age 65, of Crystal Falls, passed away January 3, 2022, in his office from natural causes.

He was born November 7, 1956, in Crystal Falls, MI, the son of the late Rubert and Elona Peterson.

Buck served on the United Lutheran Church council for the last 3 years and was also always very involved with the church as part of the congregation before serving on the council. His favorite act of service to the church was to cook and work in the kitchen, particularly for the big Easter Brunch held every year.

Nothing made Buck happier than spending time with family and friends and bringing them together. Some of the fondest memories he liked to share were from time spent at his camp built by his father and uncle. He spent a lot of time there in his childhood with his father and uncle, and later with his two sons and other family and friends.

His drive to impact real change on the world led him to start a business, Renewable Resource Solutions, in 2001 and that had been his career ever since. He was proud and always motivated to continue growing his business and completing the work that had been so fulfilling for him for so long. He

worked tirelessly for his business all those years without ever missing the important moments in life, always being an amazing, selfless friend to all he knew. He lived in service to people, joyfully.

Buck is survived by his former spouse, Camille Peterson, and their two children, Hunter Peterson and Maximilian (Mackenzie) Peterson; his significant other Karen Dougdale; his siblings, Thomas Smithson, Pearl Ross, Evelyn Kudwa, Anita Stockham; many cousins, nieces, nephews, and other relatives. He was preceded in death by his sister, Jeanette Steahly and his father figure, uncle Melvin Peterson.

Visitation will take place Friday, January 7, 2022 from 12 noon until 3:00 pm at United Lutheran Church of Crystal Falls with Pastor DJ Rasner officiating. Funeral services for Donald will take place at 3:00 PM at United Lutheran Church, Crystal Falls, MI.

Memorials may be made in his memory.

Donations may be made in Buck's memory to the John E. Force Forestry Education Fund at www.sustainableinc.org and to United Lutheran Church at P.O. Box 390, Crystal Falls, MI 49920, Phone: 906-875-6591

In addition, a memorial scholarship will be established for forestry students in Buck's honor; details of the scholarship will be forthcoming.

Condolences to the family of Donald R. Peterson may be expressed online at www.nashfuneralhome.net

The family has entrusted the Nash Funeral Home and Cremation Services of Crystal Falls with arrangements.

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 7. 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM (CT)

United Lutheran Church
506 Superior Ave
Crystal Falls, MI

Funeral Service

JAN 7. 3:00 PM - 4:00 PM (CT)

United Lutheran Church
506 Superior Ave.
Crystal Falls, MI 49920

Tribute Wall

DW

“ I had the pleasure of working with Don on numerous projects over quite a number of years. The first time I met him was when we were on a tour of a number of sites that spanned the state of MI. He picked me up in Grand Rapids, and we spent 4 days in his car touring the state, ending up at the top of UP in Calumet. He took the time to show the sites like Sleeping Bear Dune, and to impart all kinds of knowledge and wisdom on MI and life in general. I think it would be very hard to not have liked Don. What a great human being. I didn't know him all that well, but I am deeply appreciative of the chance to have known him in part.

Dan Wilson
Charlotte, NC

Dan Wilson - January 19, 2022 at 03:16 PM

RN

“ I just heard this news today, so sad. He was a wonderful college roommate, true friend, and just a fun, positive guy to be around. Condolences to Hunter and Max and rest of family. My fondest memory of him was right before I went into the Marine Corps. He and I went camping in Rocky Mountain National Park. It rained most of the day, but we managed to each catch a trout from a stream, where we had generic beer cooling. While we were cooking the fish and sipping our beers, the rain stopped and the clouds cleared, revealing a full moon with twinkling stars. I remember thinking, it just doesn't get any better than this. A couple weeks later, a drill Sargent was yelling in my ear, but that fond memory helped me get through boot camp. Hope you're enjoying some good fish and beer in Heaven, my old friend.

*Dick Neumann
Helena, MT*

Richard Neumann - January 16, 2022 at 02:21 PM

HH

“ I'm so very sorry to hear this sad news. I met with Don a year ago to discuss urban wood utilization and I was immediately impressed with his knowledge and passion. I gained an immense amount knowledge from him in just a couple of hours and he gave me the confidence to begin pursuing my goals. I will never forget that it was 10 degrees below zero and he wore a baseball cap while the rest of our heads were freezing even with wool hats on.

*Hannibal Hayes
City of Minnetonka*

Hannibal Hayes - January 14, 2022 at 11:41 AM

DP

“ My condolences to family, friends and colleagues on the loss of a really nice man. I was so sad to hear the news of his passing. Buck was always ready with a smile and laugh. and will be greatly missed. My parents, Wayne and Evelyn Pearson, attended United Lutheran with Buck. I really got to know him after my father passed away in 2018. Buck always made an effort to check in with my mom and often sat with her in church. I enjoyed getting to know him on my visits to United and looked for a "virtual" visit through his letters written in the online church newsletter.

*Diane Pearson
Minneapolis, MN*

Diane Pearson - January 09, 2022 at 12:45 PM

CT

*Max and Hunter -
I met your family in Colorado for Camp Rocky back in 2008. Max and my daughter, Michaela, were good friends. Your dad was a dear man. Even though I didn't have a chance to get to know him better, his kindness and love for his boys was obvious. I'm sorry for your loss. He lives on through both of you in everything you do.*

*Cindy Teyf
Denver, Colorado*

Cindy Teyf - January 10, 2022 at 12:11 AM

CB

“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Collin Buntrock - January 07, 2022 at 01:00 PM

AW

“ My condolences to Don's family and friends. Don and I became friends while working together on many forestry related projects over past 20 plus years. He will be truly missed.
Anthony Weatherspoon, retired U&M forestry specialist, Michigan DNR

Anthony Weatherspoon - January 07, 2022 at 11:42 AM

PB

“ I had and will continue to think of Don and his generous spirit often because he shared his cat, BugsMe with me and my dog Jimmy, Don selected the name well. We will all see each other soon. Thank you Don.

Pat Brown - January 07, 2022 at 10:48 AM

DN

“ Don's family, friends and colleagues - I'm very sorry for your loss. Don was a fun guy to work with - very enterprising, entrepreneurial, and always hatching ideas for new projects to support forestry, logging and other parts of the forest products industry. He was a hard worker - quite a few times I'd get emails from Don late at night. I like his sense of humor - we both enjoyed ribbing each other, and it seemed like we'd find something to laugh about in just about every call or meeting. He was a great partner in our efforts to support the forest products industry, and I'll miss him, but I choose by faith to believe we'll see each other again someday. I'll pray that his friends and family remember him with peace and joy.

David Neumann

David Neumann - January 07, 2022 at 09:58 AM

SB

“ My condolences to the family. Don was a great guy and I enjoyed working with him at the Lumberjack RC&D and beyond. He will be truly missed.

I remember the time we roomed together the night before a chartered fishing trip on Lake Michigan. We didn't catch many fish but we had a blast. Good memories!

*Steve Bratkovich
Retired Forest Products Specialist, USFS
St. Paul, MN*

Steve Bratkovich - January 07, 2022 at 09:52 AM

PA

“ My deepest sympathy goes out to Dons Family. My sadness inspires many fond memories of Don. It also creates a moment of reflection on how each and every person should live life. Don Lived Life! He was creative, understanding, positive, kind, loving and he shared it all with so many! He was a great mentor, friend and role model for me! His legacy lives on. Rest in peace....

Peter Anderson

Peter Anderson - January 07, 2022 at 09:45 AM

JS

“ I had the pleasure of being with Don in late November here in Madison for a whole day on urban wood activities. He had just returned from hunting at his cabin his Father built after the War in the late 50's in Upper Michigan. He hunted with son. I could tell it had been something he really enjoyed. The time with his family put a sparkle in his eye.

Don had so much to offer and was a kind and generous man. He will be missed greatly.

John Stephenson
Stephenson Tree Care, Inc
Madison, WI

John Stephenson - January 07, 2022 at 09:44 AM

AS

“Live generously” - that was Buck. He was always thinking of others, going above and beyond to help them. Such a caring and inspirational soul!

I'm so thankful for all the times Karen and Buck invited me over for dinner. I'll forever treasure the stories, laughter, and delicious food we shared! Whether it was teaching me how to cook or giving the best lift-me-up hugs, Buck treated me the way he treated everyone - like we mattered. God blessed us with you, Buck!


Let's celebrate Buck, all the zest he had for life and the passion he had for helping others!

Hugs ❤️

Allyse

Allyse Staehler - January 07, 2022 at 08:44 AM

LM

“ Thinking of Camille, Max, Hunter & all of Bucks family and friends. My parents (Rip) met Buck many years ago when they went to stay with my Aunt Jean, Camilles Mum. They both spoke so very fondly of him and often did, he really must have been some guy. May he dance among the stars and rest peacefully in paradise. With love from Lucinda & all your family in Ireland 

Lucinda McFall - January 07, 2022 at 03:54 AM

GF

“ My deepest sympathy to Don's family for their loss. I feel so fortunate to have had the opportunity to work with and know Don during most of my forestry career. Don was the kind of guy that would take on any issue and had the ability to make it happen even though it seemed impossible. His advice and assistance to the forestry community will be greatly missed. Sue and I will miss our visits with him when we return to our tree farm near Crystal Falls in the summers. The forests and the forest products industry in the Great Lakes region have benefited greatly from Don's efforts.

Gene Francisco - Retired WI Chief State Forester

Gene Francisco - January 06, 2022 at 10:22 PM

DM

“ My condolences to family. Donny was easy to love and one always felt like he loved you back. Sadly missed.
Donna Maki

Donna Maki - January 06, 2022 at 05:15 PM

JM

“ MTE lost a friend and the forest products industry lost a giant. Don visited with MTE just a few days ago as he prepared us and his team to kick off an MTE Sales and Marketing Assessment scheduled for January 12th. His firm completed an assessment of our sawmill in October of 2021 and kicked off an assessment of our timber harvesting practices in December of 2021.

In more than 30 years of professional association with Menominee Tribal Enterprises, Don's love of the forest made our forests healthier. His love of loggers made our loggers safer. And his love of people made our company a great place to work.

Our entire company salutes Don and prays for his family. Rest in Peace Don.

"Well done good and faithful servant..." Matthew 25:23

Jonathan Wilber, President MTE - January 06, 2022 at 04:31 PM

MM

“ I first met Don when I attended a training class he was part of in 2015. His expertise and passion for the industry were immediately evident. His after-hours antics were a blast! I learned a lot from Don, and enjoyed the meetings he was at after that. My condolences to Don's family, friends and colleagues. Mike Morris

Mike Morris - January 06, 2022 at 04:18 PM

MB

“ Dear Family of Don,

Please accept my sincere sympathy for the loss of Don. While few residents know the true extent of his efforts to save the paper mill in Park Falls, I can assure you that the former employees of the mill and City officials do know. While I look back now and wished I had thanked him for his efforts, the least I can do now is make sure his family knows that his efforts were appreciated and admired. He was a good man and at the end of the day, I think the best epitaph for any man is that “he tried to make the lives of others better.”

Today is the anniversary of the first day I met Don, in my office, just starting the effort to save the Park Falls Mill.

*Sincerely,
Michael Bablick
Mayor, Park Falls, Wisconsin*

Michael Bablick - January 06, 2022 at 03:50 PM

KC

“ Don was a neat guy! We reconnected with him a few years back and he graciously showed us around Crystal Falls and provided a ton of family history. He would even drive many hours to Minnesota to attend Peterson family events.

*I am so sorry for you and your families :(
Take care.*

Kevin DeVriendt, Minnesota Cousin - January 06, 2022 at 02:58 PM

RM

“ Don was a great guy. I really enjoyed working with him especially over the last 10 years. He always went the extra mile to get things done right. He will be missed. Rob Meyer - retired forester.

rob meyer - January 06, 2022 at 11:22 AM

SA

“ My sister, Karen Dugdale, is Buck's significant other. Not once did he visit her without bringing her flowers. Even when the flowers caused bugs to infest her house, he never stopped, even though she had to keep them in the garage! He insisted on doing things for her and at the end of the day would lay on her floor with his head on her dog. Each time they got together they would laugh until they cried. Karen appreciated him so very much often wondering how she got so fortunate to have found him. Life won't ever be the same for her, nor those of us who were lucky enough to know him. What a kind man.

Sandy - January 06, 2022 at 11:14 AM

BK

Well said Sandy. We all were honored to have such a wonderful man as part of our extended family. Karen, my niece and Buck attended many family gatherings here in Baraga. We will truly miss him

Barb Knapp - January 07, 2022 at 08:38 AM

FI

“ FISTA purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.



FISTA - January 06, 2022 at 11:01 AM

MB

“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



Margaret Bau - January 06, 2022 at 10:55 AM

MB

“ Don was such a character! I had the pleasure of working with him over the past 20 years on all things cooperative in the forest products industry. Don had a deep passion for the forest, for advancing the wood products industry, and for those who made a living from the forests. Don had a curious streak, always coming up with yet another bright idea. Don frequently made long road trips, calling people from the road as he explored aspects of his bright ideas. Oh, and his mischievous humor; you never knew what would come out of his mouth during a meeting! Thank you Don for all your hard work. Rest well my friend. I know you are smiling upon us from heaven.

Margaret Bau, Stevens Point, WI, and a fellow cooperator

Margaret Bau - January 06, 2022 at 10:48 AM

AM

“ Buck one of the finest i was blessed to have as a friend he could always make me laugh such a great friend incredible father just a great person you will be missed by all iwill always remmber the tennis we played your potato sausage all the dinners you had my family over for cutting my trees down being such a great coach and mentor to so many kids im so so sorry max and hunter for your loss your dad made the world a better place and heaven just gained a beautiful soule0 rip buck

Amy - January 06, 2022 at 10:19 AM

MK

“ Don will be greatly missed. He was a true pioneer and moved the ball forward for everyone in the Forest Products Industry. Don's involvement to take on difficult projects benefitted everyone involved. Thank you Don, for all your help.

Mark Kirschling, Sad Master Logger

Mark Kirschling - January 06, 2022 at 08:41 AM

TM

“ I'm saddened to hear of Don's passing. As a fellow supporter of the timber and by-products industry our paths crossed on a variety of meetings, boards and activities. He was a good friend of many, colleagues abounded and mentor to many. Our prayers go out to his close family and friends for peace during this difficult time.

*Tony "T.J." Morice
TNT Ventures LLC*

Tony "T.J." Morice - January 06, 2022 at 08:21 AM

KF

“ My wonderful Uncle Don and I started our very close friendship when I convinced him to dance with me at my older brother’s wedding. We had many great times together and amazing conversations through the years. He was a very deep thinker and I cherished his fair-mindedness as he shared his insights. Don seemed to have a gift for focusing on the best people had to offer and the upside of situations. What a treasure he has been to my soul... I will miss him in this life beyond words. I take joy in knowing that because of the redeeming grace of our Lord, I will see him again. I thank God for His boundless comfort and peace at this time of much sadness in my own and the world’s loss of this extraordinary human being. 🙏💕

Kelly Fenwick - January 05, 2022 at 09:56 PM

CB

“ I am deeply saddened for the passing of Don. He was a great friend, colleague and mentor to so many of us. I know he really cherished his family and friends and was so dedicated to helping those in need. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to Don’s family.
-Collin Buntrock

Collin Buntrock - January 05, 2022 at 09:00 PM

SK

“ Always the optimist. He will be sadly missed. My condolences. Scott Koerner, Master Logger

Scott Koerner - January 05, 2022 at 08:05 PM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.*



January 05, 2022 at 07:53 PM



“ *Don was such a great family man. Every time we got together he talked so much about his boys and how proud he was of them. He will be greatly missed.*
-Scott Ciullo & Staff

Scott Ciullo - January 05, 2022 at 07:18 PM



“ *Scott Ciullo purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.*



Scott Ciullo - January 05, 2022 at 07:00 PM



“ *SRI Board (Henry, Jane, Scott & Wendy) purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.*



SRI Board (Henry, Jane, Scott & Wendy) - January 05, 2022 at 05:01 PM

CH

“ I was so sad to hear of Buck's passing. I met him at United Lutheran and had several conversations with him on a variety of topics. He was positively persistent and beyond dedicated to every cause he embraced. He was quick to volunteer and inspired others to share their time and talent. I never knew him to be without a smile or kind word. I'm grateful our paths crossed. My condolences to his loved ones, his countless friends and to his church family.

Chris Harkness - January 05, 2022 at 04:31 PM

JA

“ Jennifer Lyn & Oran Anderson purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.



Jennifer Lyn & Oran Anderson - January 05, 2022 at 03:48 PM



“ Medium Dish Garden was purchased for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.



January 05, 2022 at 03:16 PM

SK

“ Deepest sympathies to Don's family, friends and business associates. His work over the years helped to improve the safety and productivity of logging and forestry in Wisconsin and the Great Lakes Region. His wisdom, wit and work ethic will be missed by many.

Steve Kariainen - January 05, 2022 at 03:15 PM

MH

“ *My prayers and condolences to Don's family and friends. I was also one of those young foresters who got to know Don during the 4th Wisconsin Forest Inventory out of Hayward in '80/'81. I worked with Don on various projects throughout my career and he was a friend and valued colleague. He'll be missed.*

Mark Heyde - January 05, 2022 at 02:51 PM



“ *Memorial Trees was purchased for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.*

January 05, 2022 at 01:51 PM

BS

“ *Our condolences to the family of Don. He was one of a kind genuine person. Heaven will never be the same! :)*
Brian and Kim Spencer

Brian Spencer - January 05, 2022 at 01:49 PM

BS

“ *Fond memories of early years as a bunch of young foresters working Forest Inventory Analysis, in WI.*



Brian Spencer - January 05, 2022 at 01:37 PM



“ Sweet Tenderness was purchased for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.



January 05, 2022 at 01:06 PM



“ Lumberjack RC&D Council purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.



Lumberjack RC&D Council - January 05, 2022 at 12:57 PM



“ On behalf of the Lumberjack RC&D Council, I'd like to express our condolences to Don's family, to his colleagues and his friends. This is a tragic loss but affirms the profound impact he had on us all by the type of life he lived. He will be greatly missed.

Tracy Beckman & Lumberjack RC&D Council - January 05, 2022 at 12:52 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.



January 05, 2022 at 12:50 PM

CN

“ We express our condolences to Don's family.
I so enjoyed working with Don and discussing the latest ideas and projects he had going. I have many fond memories from the stogies he used for insect repellent to some curious wild game offerings. He was dedicated to the forest in the upper Midwest and the industry that is vital to the management. This is a great loss to the forestry community.

Carol Nielsen - January 05, 2022 at 12:47 PM

GA

“ Great Lakes Timber Professionals Assoc.
purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.



Great Lakes Timber Professionals Assoc. - January 05, 2022
at 12:06 PM

 Jeffrey
Chernach

“ My condolences from my family to yours.

Jeff Chernach and family.

Jeffrey Chernach - January 05, 2022 at 11:42 AM

SJ

“ Don was a friend and an amazing partner for the forest products industry in Wisconsin and beyond. His relentless pursuit for solutions will remain an inspiration for many of us for years to come.

Stacey Johnson - January 05, 2022 at 10:52 AM

JM

“ Although I never had the pleasure to meet Buck in this life, I feel like I knew him! I had the pleasure to meet hunter and max as their mum Camille is my first cousin! My parents were lucky enough to meet me, and raved about and his cabin, and what a lovely man he was! I know all max and hunters cousins on the Di monte side just adored him, and this to me says enough good to think I would of felt the same!

Sending all my love across water guys! I'm so sorry for your loss and sadness! Your Irish cousin Johanna xx

Johanna McFall - January 05, 2022 at 10:47 AM

BH

“ The forest industry family in Michigan has lost a great professional and friend. He was such a fun guy who loved what he did and was a pleasure to work with.

Brenda Haskill, forester, Michigan DNR

Brenda Haskill - January 05, 2022 at 10:46 AM

KE

“ Ken, Mick, Jeremy, and Ethan purchased the Joyful Memory for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.



Ken, Mick, Jeremy, and Ethan - January 05, 2022 at 10:33 AM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Donald Rubert Peterson.*



January 05, 2022 at 10:26 AM



“ *Dave Epp Epperly lit a candle in memory of Donald Rubert Peterson*



Dave Epp Epperly - January 05, 2022 at 10:02 AM



*Godspeed Donald
I could not have had a better friend. Don and I go way back to Michigan Tech. We actually got to know each other as crew partners on the Fourth Wisconsin Forest inventory in 1980/81. My deepest sympathies to Don's family and coworkers. He always spoke highly of you all! I will deeply miss him.*

Dave Epp Epperly - January 05, 2022 at 10:07 AM



“ *2 files added to the tribute wall*



Dave Epp Epperly - January 05, 2022 at 10:01 AM