



Hilding "Swede" Peterson

October 6, 1918 - September 16, 2010

Hilding A. "Swede" Peterson, 91, of Benton Harbor passed away on Thursday, Sept. 16, 2010 at Lakeland Regional Medical Center in St. Joseph.

A celebration of life service will be held 11 AM on Wednesday, September 22, at the Saron Lutheran Church in St. Joseph with Rev. Joan Oleson officiating. Burial will follow in North Shore Memory Gardens where military rites will be conducted. The family will receive friends and relatives from 5 PM to 8 PM on Tuesday at the Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in St. Joseph. Memorials may be made to the Saron Lutheran Church or the VFW Post 1137. To share memories and photos, visit www.florin.net.

Swede was born in Chicago, IL on Oct. 6, 1918 to John & Amanda (Johnson) Peterson. The family moved to Benton Harbor when he was 2 years old where he resided the rest of his life. He graduated from Benton Harbor High School in 1936 where he played Varsity football with his lifelong friend Emil "Ace" Edelberg. After graduation he worked with his father at Mullin Container Corporation and along with Ace played semi-pro football on the Twin Cities Tornadoes. When the draft began in 1940 he made a pact with his friends that as soon as one of them was drafted the rest would enlist, so he joined the Army in April 1941. Swede served his country proudly in the Pacific Theater with the 32nd Red Arrow Division. His war experience in New Guinea has been chronicled in the book "The Ghost Mountain Boys". After being

discharged from the Army in August, 1945 he returned to Benton Harbor and began an apprenticeship with Star Pattern Manufacturing Company. Swede continued as a skilled wood pattern maker until his retirement.

He was a member of Saron Lutheran Church where many old time Boy Scouts still remember him as their Scout leader. Swede was also a lifetime member of the VFW Post 1137. He enjoyed playing golf, hunting, fishing and playing cards with family and friends.

On July 10, 1948 he married Anna May Peterson in Chicago, Illinois and together they celebrated 50 years of marriage. He was a devoted father to his children and loving caretaker of his wife as she battled M.S. until her death on November 25, 1998.

Swede is survived by his son, James (Gayle) Peterson of Stevensville, MI and daughter Nancy (Jack) Durham of Saline, MI; six grandchildren – Steven (Karyn) Durham, Denise (Brian) Freidhoff, Jennifer (Billy) Smith, Charles Durham, Jonathon Peterson and Dianna Durham; four great-grandchildren – Irene Durham, Zachary Stephens, Blake Smith and Alexandria Smith; his sister Ruth Harris and sister-in-law June Peterson.

Swede was also preceded in death by his parents John and Amanda; his brother Monte and his brother-in-law Fran Harris.

Cemetery Details

North Shore Memory Gardens

5027 M 63 N
Coloma, MI 49038

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **21**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dey-Florin Chapel of Florin Funeral Service - Closed 2013
2506 Niles Avenue
St. Joseph, MI 49085
(269) 983-1514
staff@florin.net

Service

SEP **22**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saron Lutheran Church
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
saron@acd.net
<http://www.saronlutheran.org>

Burial

SEP **22**. 12:00 PM (ET)

North Shore Memory Gardens
5027 M 63 N
Coloma, MI 49038

Gathering

SEP **22**. 1:00 PM (ET)

Saron Lutheran Church
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, MI 49085
saron@acd.net
<http://www.saronlutheran.org>

Tribute Wall

MO

“ Swede was a sweet and wonderful man, an amazing father, and a loving grandfather. We were very blessed to have had him in our lives. Our prayers are with all of you.

Mary, Michael Bridget OLeary - September 20, 2010 at 06:12 PM

GL

“ Swede had such a gentle nature about himself. Before I even met him, I knew he was profoundly dedicated to his family and loved his country. I've never seen such dedication to a wife before, and I know they are together once again.
He even shared a bottle of Glogg with me one year. What a guy.

Georgia Lazzaro - September 20, 2010 at 10:09 AM

HB

“ Jim and Nancy...so sorry to hear of Mr. Peterson's passing. I so admired his love for you his children and how he cared for and adored your mother. They are together once again and you can take comfort in knowing that. My prayers are with you both at this most difficult time.

Hilda Banyon - September 19, 2010 at 09:21 AM