



Harold Jennings Petersen

June 5, 1920 - February 9, 2018

Harold Jennings Petersen of Royal Oak, 97, died on February 9, 2018. He was born June 5, 1920.

A lifelong resident of Royal Oak, Harold was a treasure trove of local history. He knew what each building in downtown Royal Oak had started out as and he had lived in numerous houses through his childhood as a foster child in Royal Oak.

After graduating Royal Oak High School he joined the Navy in 1938 and served on the USS Grayback and on several other submarines during World War II, earning a commendation for contributions on a mission to clear underwater mines during a major war offensive.

Returning from the service, he married his favorite roller skating partner and war time pen pal, Anita Holton. Anita enjoyed the fact that Harold was always quick with a joke, but was also a hard worker. As a member of mechanical engineering staff at General Motors Research, he worked on many pivotal new technologies projects and after work hours was able to fix everything from cars to watches. He fixed many school kid's bicycles and neighbor's broken things for decades and was the go-to guy in the neighborhood for difficult repair jobs. Outside of work, he and Anita were devoted to their children and attended all the musical and school events in which their kids

participated. They were both loving and caring parents and role models to many people. Many of our high school friends spent many hours at our home and some of the best were while waiting for Anita's homemade bread to come out of the oven.

After Anita passed away in January of 2006, Harold learned to make superb cherry, apple, pecan and chocolate meringue pies, but always missed Anita and her excellent cooking. He remained in his home and continued to be active with friends and was at the center of many family functions. He was always the happiest when with his friends and family.

Harold is survived by his 4 children: Jan, Larry (Jeanne), Lois (Frank Pratt) and Nora (Steve) Weage - 4 grandchildren: Cheryl (Ron Stewart), Lori (Dave) Zenas, Valerie Weage and L. Douglas Petersen - and 4 great grandchildren Nicole Stewart, Claire Zenas, Scott Stewart and Jessica Zenas. His loving care and sense of play will be greatly missed.

A memorial service will be held Saturday, March 3, 2018, 11 am, at the Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Home, 705 W 11 Mile Road (4 blocks E of Woodward), Royal Oak.

Previous Events

Memorial Service

MAR 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Wm. Sullivan and Son Funeral Directors-Royal Oak

705 W. Eleven Mile Road

Royal Oak, MI 48067

(248) 541-7000

royal@sullivanfh.com

<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/>

Tribute Wall



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* was purchased for the family of Harold Jennings Petersen.



February 18, 2018 at 12:19 PM