



Earl Hanson Peterson, Jr.

March 3, 1934 - July 20, 2020

Earl Hanson Peterson, Jr.; musician, teacher, mentor, leader, collector, optimist, and devoted family man, passed away peacefully, at 1:30 am, on Monday July 20, 2020, at age 86.

Earl, or Jerry as he is known by his family and close friends, is survived by his 3 children and their spouses: Earl III (Pete) and his wife Laura, David and his wife Carolyn, Cheryl and her husband Brian; his 6 grandchildren: David, Chelsea, Eric, Hayley, Anna-Lyn, Mattie; his 2 great grandchildren: Oliver and August; and his beloved: Carole.

Jerry is also survived by 2 siblings, William (Billy) Peterson and Martha Peterson-Saffer, and their children: Kelly, Paul, Jocelyn, Beau, and Alex and their respective families.

Jerry was a sweet, trusting soul and unfailingly kind. He always saw the good in people. In his presence, he could calm and guide with his insight and wisdom.

Jerry was a frequent traveler on the “high road” and, like the mentor he was, lived by example. He lifted spirits, offered guidance, and revealed perspective to all who knew him.

Jerry's true passion was music. He practiced it, performed it, conducted it, recorded it and passed it on to future generations through his teaching profession. His love of the Big Band fueled his lifelong musical path.

Jerry was undoubtedly a great teacher, musician and mentor. However, Jerry was, above all, a fiercely devoted family man. His family meant the world to him, and he enjoyed strong relationships with each one of them. His 3 children were his pride, and to speak with Jerry was to hear how proud he was of the children he loved and supported.

Tribute Wall

KC

“ Jerry was such a wonderful neighbor and friend. My husband and I went to see his band at La Fontaine Blue. He is a wonderful musician!! We loved to go to his house for Christmas to see his beautiful train garden. RIP Jerry.

Karen Crispell - August 31, 2020 at 11:40 AM

ER

“ Jerry meant many things to many people. I knew him as my beloved grandfather and as the unwavering pillar of the Peterson family. I have never once heard him speak ill of anyone, or ever say anything that wasn't encouraging or kind. Many have called him sweet and a gentleman, and those words couldn't hold any more truth. Jerry was the very embodiment of kindness and stability, and his absence is felt much greater during these volatile times. I think about you everyday. I love you and I miss you. Your inspiration lives strong within all of us.

Eric - August 25, 2020 at 10:23 PM

“ Cheryl Douglas is sharing this memory on behalf of Jerry's very good friend, Ginger: Ginger writes, “I met Jerry my first year of teaching in 1976 at Arundel Middle School where he taught band and I taught orchestra. I thought I had learned to teach in college but I learned more from him than I ever learned in school. He was a kind, patient, caring mentor with a quick wit and a joy to be with. I observed his passion for music in his teaching, watching him conduct and listening to him play his trumpet. As much as he loved music, there was nothing more important to him than his three beautiful children Pete, David and Cheryl. Jerry had a special appreciation for the people, places and things in his life, be it a small delicate flower or a starry night. He enjoyed antiqueing in Harper's Ferry, touring art museums in D.C., old movies at St. John's College and jazz concerts at the Maryland Inn, Blues Alley, and the Left Bank Jazz Society in Baltimore. He always had a sports car and loved taking road trips. He was a man of high integrity with an enormous amount of character. He carried himself with dignity and grace and was very much respected. Jerry became a dear friend of mine and I treasure my precious memories of him. He was a gift to this world. Well done sweet man! Rest In Peace. Ginger Thorne”

CherylDouglas - August 09, 2020 at 11:48 AM

PR

“ Jerry played in and led some of the bands I participated in. A fine trumpeter and knowledgeable musician, but moreover, he treated others with great respect and dignity. Not only did he fund the music charts for his rehearsal band, but funded the expenses for a number of CD recordings, and the expense for the food, hall, and associated expenses for a CD release party. In my opinion, The rehearsals of his band were consistently the best, as compared to the many other bands I've rehearsed with - always well prepared and efficient. Among his friends in North Carolina, Jerry will be sadly missed by many musicians and friends in Baltimore.

Phil Rovner - July 26, 2020 at 07:30 PM

RZ

“ Mr. Peterson was my elementary school band director. He also gave me trumpet lessons on occasion when I was in middle school because my family could not afford regular lessons. He landed me my first paying gigs in middle school taking me to several churches on the Eastern Shore as well as my first regular Easter gig. He was kind, gentle, and had a great sense of humor. I would not be the musician or person I am today without him. Rest In Peace Mr. Peterson.

Rachel Zephir - July 25, 2020 at 08:28 PM

DL

“ What a wonderful teach musician and friend. Jerry and I worked together for many years auditioning trumpet players for the all-county band

Dennis Lewis - July 24, 2020 at 08:26 PM

LP

“ Jerry was my father-in-law, and a kinder more lovely person you won't find. He had love to share with so many, and delighted in his time with his precious love, Carole, his trumpets, his children, Cheryl, David & Pete, his grandchildren and great grandchildren, his sister and brother, his many big band friends, his long time friends Diane and Larry, so many people he loved and so many who loved him. He treated everyone with dignity and respect. We all need to redouble our efforts to share his pure light, because this old world is a dimmer place without this elegant, courtly man. He had a knack for seeing the good. I will miss him.

Laura Peterson - July 24, 2020 at 12:49 PM

CW

“ Jerry came became a daily presence in my life and in the lives of my family after his friend, my late husband, Henry passed away. We loved Jerry for his goodness, sweetness and quiet grace and because he reminded us daily that he loved us, too. An old-school gentleman, he stood when women stood, helped with chairs, opened doors, and wrote thank you notes for small kindnesses. His passion was music and he devoted his life to making it, to helping others appreciate its value in their lives. He was first and foremost, a teacher. The final CD with his big band, Riverside Brass, he entitled, *Keep the Music Playing*. Invariably, when members of his much loved Collegians band at ECU passed, he endeavored to keep the music playing in their honor with contributions to help support music students through the Herbert L. Carter Scholarship Fund at East Carolina University,. Herb Carter was his mentor. Like most music students during Jerry's era at ECU, Mr Carter helped to launch Jerry's career in music. The Collegians big band in which Jerry played yearly for more than 30 years, created a scholarship in his honor. The address is: 102 A. J. Fletcher Music Center, Attn: Friends of the School of Music, Greenville, NC 27858-4353.

Carole Whitener - July 24, 2020 at 12:25 PM

JE

“ *What an amazing person. His legacy with music lives on inside each of us who had witness to his musical gifts. He was my teacher in elementary school and became a friend and mentor over the years. He is deeply missed. He always gave me good advice and treated me like family. He was a giving and genuine man. My prayers to everyone and especially his family. Sending my love to you all.*

Jen - July 24, 2020 at 10:26 AM

PB

“ *Jerry was an ace musician and teacher, well known and well liked throughout our music circles. He was also a very nice gentleman, easy to be around and talk to. Sending prayers and hugs to your beautiful families. We will miss you, Pa Jerry. Rest In Peace.*

Patricia Bell - July 24, 2020 at 10:15 AM

TL

“ *It was a pleasure to work with such a kind and professional man. What a treasure he was to the students he taught. It is also a wonderful legacy that he passed those traits down to his children and grandchildren. God bless him and all who love him!*

Teresa Love - July 24, 2020 at 08:56 AM

BD

“ This man was such a gentleman who cared deeply about his two sons Pete & David, his daughter Cheryl and his grandchildren, great grand children and friends. He will be sadly missed by all His passion for music, which followed him all his life was second to none. His attention to detail was impeccable. This man was my father in law, a second father figure in my life a friend and a person you could admire and look up to. Rest In Peace Earl Hanson Peterson aka \"Jerry\"

Brian Douglas - July 23, 2020 at 11:11 AM