



## Duane Eldon Peterson

July 2, 1935 - March 30, 2022

Duane Eldon Peterson of Ann Arbor, MI, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, March 30, 2022 at the age of 86. Duane was born on July 2, 1935 in Ladysmith, WI to Ralph and Evelyn Peterson. He graduated from Ann Arbor High School in 1953. He served as an Army Radar Operator stationed in New York from 1954 to 1956 and then followed his sweetheart, Nancy Ann Kuenzel, to MSU and received a Bachelor of Arts in Education. He went on to get a Master of Arts in Guidance and Counseling. He married Nancy Ann in 1957 at the First Presbyterian Church in Ann Arbor. Duane taught at Rochester High School then worked for the Ann Arbor Public Schools for the remainder of his career in various teaching and administrative roles at Tappan Middle School, Clague Middle School, Slauson Middle School, Huron High School and Pioneer High School. He retired in 1993. He was dedicated to his students and admired by his colleagues. Duane was preceded in death by his parents, his twin sister, Dolores Colson, and his beloved wife, Nancy Ann. He is survived by his three brothers; Phil (Judy) Peterson, Pete (Chris) Peterson, John (Wendy) Peterson, brother-in-law, Jim Colson, and his two children, Greg (Sandy) Peterson and Mary Ann (Dan) Smith. Also survived by five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. He loved his family, cherished his friends and he had a passion for golf. He loved horseback riding with Nancy Ann, especially at Elkhorn Ranch. He spent lots of hours fly-fishing on the north branch of the Au Sable River. He also enjoyed hunting deer and grouse. He lived life to the fullest and he will be greatly

missed by his family and friends. A Celebration of Life gathering will be held at 1:00 P.M. on Saturday, June 18, 2022 at the Lovells Township Historical Society Pavilion. Gathering time will start at 12:00 P.M. and light refreshments will follow the service. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made in memory of Duane to Karin's Horse Connections and Legacy Stables in Caledonia, MI ([karinshorses.com](http://karinshorses.com)) or to the Au Sable North Branch Area Foundation ([ausablenorthbranch.org](http://ausablenorthbranch.org)). To leave a memory you have of Duane or to sign his guestbook, please visit [www.rbfhsaline.com](http://www.rbfhsaline.com).

# Previous Events

## Celebration of Life Gathering

JUN 18. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Lovells Township Historical Society Pavilion  
8405 Twin Bridge Rd  
Grayling, MI 49738

## Celebration of Life Service

JUN 18. 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM (ET)

Lovells Township Historical Society Pavilion  
8405 Twin Bridge Rd  
Grayling, MI 49738

## Light Refreshments

JUN 18. 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM (ET)

Lovells Township Historical Society Pavilion  
8405 Twin Bridge Rd  
Grayling, MI 49738

# Tribute Wall



“ *Duane Eldon Peterson*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *Mr. Peterson was an Assistant Principal at Tappan when I was there in the early 1970's. He was a wonderful Administrator and a calming presence for me as a young 7th grader. My condolences to his family.*

**Cindy Quine** - April 16, 2022 at 02:22 PM



“ *The Peterson family, 1926 Marian, at Stadium Blvd., was a household of standouts in the Ann Arbor community. When Duane was the assistant principal at Ann Arbor (Pioneer) HS, he entered my son Drew's classroom and motioned him to the hallway. Fearing the worst, the mild-mannered Drew rushed his mind about any misbehavior. When they faced each other, Duane began to shake Drew's hand and he said, "I've known your dad from the neighborhood. Nice to meet you!" A great barb was a friendly greeting. Loved, Duane! Dale Leslie. Depicted: 2023: Dr. Drew C. Leslie, trombone performance assistant professor, Colorado State University in Ft. Collins.*



**Dale R. Leslie** - April 06, 2022 at 03:58 PM

CT

“ Mr Peterson was my counselor at Tappan Junior High School during my first year there, which was then 7th grade. I will never forget him and his friendly manner, sense of humor and ability to really connect with me and the other kids in our class! We all loved him and even tried to get sent to his office just to get to hang out with Mr Peterson for a few! The time that I knew him was a tiny speck of time that is now a great memory forever, and I can only imagine the love that his close friends and family have for him. This is a great loss but his memory will last forever! My heartfelt condolences to his family. I hope you find great comfort in knowing the lasting lovely impression that was left on so many young lives by Mr Peterson.

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**Cheryl Tomsic** - April 06, 2022 at 10:22 AM

JS

“ I knew Duane for about 10 years and worked with him to develop Newport Creek Subdivision which surrounded Duane's property. He was a fair man with a look to the future of his neighborhood with pride I know how close he was to his family and always put them first. I will miss him.

*John Swisher*

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**John Swisher** - April 06, 2022 at 10:12 AM

EG

“ Duane was such a pleasure to work with - fair minded, considerate, humorous. He was a heck of an administrator. A role model for many of us. Regards to his family.

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**Elizabeth Gray** - April 06, 2022 at 09:09 AM

DM

“ *There is no one who has had a greater influence on my teaching career than Duane Peterson. He was a great administrator, always supportive and respectful towards all staff members. He loved the students and encouraged them in every way possible. His quality as an administrator in AAPS will never be surpassed. I was always honored to have worked and learned from this wonderful principal.*

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**donna McManus** - April 05, 2022 at 02:58 PM