



Harold Julius Peplau

February 20, 1924 - March 27, 2018

Harold J. Peplau 94, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, March 27, 2018. Born on February 20, 1924, he is survived by his wife of 71 years Stella (Kay) Peplau, his two daughters Karen Cook and Sharon (Bruce) Robinson, and his two sisters Evelyn Candianides and Dorothy Kasmar. Harold was born in Detroit and moved to Saline after high school and worked on his farm for several years when he met and married his wife Stella. While he worked at many different occupations throughout his life, Harold always considered himself first and foremost a farmer. After working several years in the Willow Run Bomber plant and at Ford Motor Company as a machinist, he partnered with Vaughn Smith and started Smith's Floor Coverings, Inc. and with Jerry Mrozinski to open Ann Arbor Carpets. He worked for 39 years until he retired in 1990. During this same period, Harold was one of the founding Board of Director members for Huron Valley National Bank in Ann Arbor. He served on the board from 1963 through 1994 which included several years as the Chairman of the Board.

After he retired, Harold worked to become a master gardener and volunteered extensively at Matthaei Botanical Gardens. He worked in the gardens and helped with their annual fund raising flower show. He also lived for his farm, starting a small apple orchard and a formal rose garden, mowing lawns, and gardening. Even at 93, Harold was still mowing 5 acres of lawn on a large commercial lawn mower and tending a large vegetable garden. It was the place he was the happiest.

Harold's philanthropic works included extensive contributions to the U of M Cardiovascular Center, helping to fund several heart treatment studies in the early 1990's. He also worked closely with other donors in 2009 to help fund a permanent facility for Therapeutic Riding Inc. on East Morgan Road in Ann Arbor that was named in his and Stella's honor. This list also includes help to provide ongoing financial support to Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor, Gleaners Food Bank of Detroit, and Forgotten Harvest of Oak Park Michigan through donation matching grants that have helped fund over 20 million meals. Finally, one of Harold's greatest honors was to be nominated by Michigan Abilities Centers Equine Assisted Therapy for the PATH International 2017 National Senior Rider of the Year. At the end of February this year, Harold rode with a little girl that was four years old, so there was 90 years difference in their ages. Riding at Michigan Abilities was the highlight of his 94th birthday and something that he was determined to complete no matter what.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, April 3, 2018 at 11:00 A.M. at the Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home in Saline, MI with Chaplin David Goldsmith officiating. Burial will follow the service in Arborcrest Memorial Park in Ann Arbor. Friends are invited to celebrate Harold's life with his family on Monday, April 2, 2018 from 3:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. at the Funeral Home and again on Tuesday, from 10:00 A.M. until the time of service at 11:00 A.M. In recognition of Harold's continuing philanthropy, the family has requested that instead of sending flowers, to please consider making a charitable contribution to either Food Gatherers of Ann Arbor, Gleaners Food Bank of Detroit, or Forgotten Harvest of Oak Park Michigan. To avoid the inevitable question of which organization the family would prefer most, we can only say that they all do incredible work, and all three organizations deserve support. Envelopes will be available at the funeral home. To sign Harold's guestbook, to leave a memory, or for more information or directions please visit www.rbfhsaline.com.

Cemetery Details

Arborcrest Memorial Park

2521 Glazier Way
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 E Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-9760
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Visitation

APR 3. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 E Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-9760
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Funeral Service

APR 3. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services
301 E Michigan Ave
Saline, MI 48176
(734) 429-9760
rbfhsaline@hotmail.com
<https://www.rbfhsaline.com>

Graveside Service

APR 3. 12:45 PM - 1:15 PM (ET)

Arborcrest Memorial Park
2521 Glazier Way
Ann Arbor, MI 48105

Tribute Wall

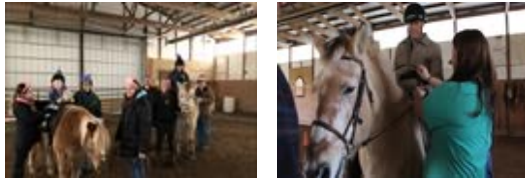


“ *Harold Julius Peplau*

October 23, 2023 at 01:07 PM



“ *2 files added to the album Life Tributes*



Jeff and Donna Jones - April 03, 2018 at 11:23 AM



“ *Harold was such a kind-hearted man, with so many life experiences that he easily shared. He will be missed by our entire team at Gleaners, and his efforts to enhance our reach will continue to be felt by so many in southeast Michigan. My entire family is so saddened by his passing, and our sincere condolences go to Kay, Bruce, Sherry and the rest of the family.*

Much love,

Tracey

Tracey Cholish - April 02, 2018 at 10:07 AM

DF

“ God Bless you sir. Whether or not I'll be accepted into the TRI program as a rider, speaking as a one time volunteer, I'm well aware of the importance of this program and the good it does. We never met, but it's incredible caring folks like you and your family that give hope and healing. My gratitude Mr. Peplau. To your family, be easy in your loved ones passing. Sounds like his imprint was gentle yet large. Celebrate his life. Not your loss. Thank you Sir. Diane Frost

Diane Frost - March 31, 2018 at 06:35 AM

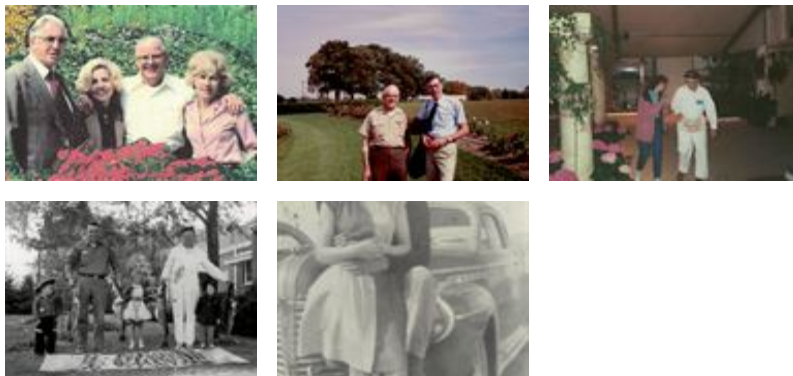
MM

“ I am forever grateful for his and Kay's generous support to Food Gatherers. May the memory his generous spirit be a blessing and comfort to you all.
Markell Miller
Food Gatherers

Markell Miller - March 30, 2018 at 04:20 PM

RIB

“ 37 files added to the album Life Tributes



Robison-Bahnmler Funeral Home & Cremation Services - March 30, 2018 at 02:44 PM

MS

“ Thank you Mr. Peplau for all you shared with TRI. I hope his generosity and good will are a comfort t to the family!

May many good memories surround you and comfort you in your loss

MS

ms - March 30, 2018 at 02:28 PM

JH

“ I'm so sorry to hear of the passing of Mr. Peplau. Our condolences to his family.. both blood and Therapeutic Riding Inc. His contributions and efforts will be seen in past, present and current riders, including my son Jacob.

Jenny and Jacob Heater

Jenny Heater - March 30, 2018 at 02:20 PM

MM

“ So sorry to hear of Mr. Peplau's passing. The generosity of the Peplau family to Therapeutic Riding has touched so many lives of riders, volunteers and staff. My heartfelt condolences on your loss.

Mary Murphy - March 30, 2018 at 01:00 PM

DJ

“ My deepest condolences to the Peplau family. Harold will truly be missed. I'm a long time volunteer with Therapeutic Riding where I have witnessed all the wonderful contributions that Harold has made to our program. Peace be with you Harold...

David Jessen - March 30, 2018 at 12:56 PM

MM

“ *My thoughts and prayers go out to Harold's family.*

I was fortunate to meet Harold a few times during my tenure serving as a volunteer at TRI (Therapeutic Riding, Inc.), and secretly felt like I was meeting a Rock Star, since 'his name was on the door!' His humility was immediately apparent.

I hope it brings comfort to the family to know that the Peplau family's generosity will live on through the amazing spirit that the team behind TRI fosters, with exponential impact due to ever-increasing outreach to the community.

*Warm regards,
Maureen McDonnell*

Maureen McDonnell - March 30, 2018 at 12:31 PM

KN

“ *My heartfelt condolences to the Peplau family. I am a volunteer at TRI, the therapeutic riding center that Harold did so much to grow and support. It is an amazing facility, and I am so thankful for everything Harold and Kay did to make it that way. Thank you for everything you've done for the TRI family. All of our prayers and thoughts are with you!*

Kate W. Noll-Greene

Kate Noll - March 30, 2018 at 12:15 PM

BW

“ To Kay, Sherry, Bruce and family,

It was a great privilege knowing Harold. His devotion to his family and remarkable work ethic were unparalleled. I will miss him.

I send my love to the entire family.

Barb Wilson

Barb Wilson - March 30, 2018 at 10:25 AM

SM

“ Very sad to hear of Mr. Peplau's passing, He was a good friend and business acquaintance of my Father, Bill Majors. I had spoken to Harold in the recent past after my Mother passed.

As a family we ate many a good Arkansas Black apples from his orchard! Dad went out every year to get a bag of apples and visit.

Great man whom enjoyed a good life!

Steve Majors

Dexter Mi

Steve Majors - March 29, 2018 at 05:02 PM

DD

My grandson, Rhys, rode for several years at Therapeutic Riding, Inc. both at the Joy Rd. and at the Morgan Rd. Centers. Mr. Peplau's, and his wife Kay's, support of that program have provided so much, for so many. A truly great life, truly well lived.

Don Dersnah

Saline

Don Dersnah - March 30, 2018 at 01:18 PM

AD

“ So sorry for your loss. I didn't know Harold for very long, but I very much enjoyed the time I was able to spend with him! Much love to the entire family.

Adryan Porter - Legacy Assisted Living

Adryan - March 29, 2018 at 04:14 PM

WB

Mr. and Mrs. W.J. Boitos

An outstanding gentleman I first met while volunteering at TRI.

He will be greatly missed, but as we all wish we were able to do, he achieved and leaves a lasting memory of his life.

W. J. Boitos - March 30, 2018 at 06:21 PM

PZ

Although we never had the honor of meeting Mr. Peplau, we will be eternally grateful to him and his very generous family for supporting Therapeutic Riding. My sister, Patty Woodall, benefited greatly from that program. Our prayers are with the family—we can only imagine how much he will be missed.

John and Pamela Zeller

Pamela Zeller - April 01, 2018 at 08:20 AM