



Robert E. St. Peters

September 20, 1923 - February 8, 2011

Dateline: Alton

Robert E. St. Peters, 87, died at 2:36 p.m. Tuesday, February 8, 2011 at Alton Memorial Hospital. Robert was born on September 20, 1923 at St. Joseph Hospital in Alton, exactly one year to the day after his brother, Leonard O. St. Peters, was born. The son of Helen V. (Boercker) St. Peters and Leonard A. St. Peters, he attended SS Peter and Paul School and Marquette High School. After graduation, he enlisted in the Navy where he was assigned to the USS Franklin in Norfolk, VA. Much has been written about the history of this famous aircraft carrier during its service in WWII. Bob eventually authored two books about the USS Franklin. After the war, he attended St. Francis Seminary in Loretto, PA for one year and worked at General Electric in Philadelphia. He met and married Helen Loretta Lowrey on June 12, 1948 in Philadelphia where his son, Robert B. and his daughter, Helen E. were born. The family moved back to Alton where Bob worked at McDonnell Douglas for about 25 years. His twin daughters, Joan Marie and Janice Marie, born in Alton. Bob had a long history of service to historical preservation in Alton. He was one of the founders of Alton Area Landmarks Association and was its president for about 30 years. He worked tirelessly to save the Alton riverfront and the site of the Lincoln-Douglas debate. He was recognized with the Studs

Terkel Humanities Service Award, and a day was dedicated by the city of Alton as the Robert E. St. Peters Day for his community efforts. He was also president of the Legion of Mary for many years at Cathedral, his parish. Because of his interest in music, he learned to play the Hawaiian guitar as a teenager and later in life, became involved in music at Lewis and Clark, participating in concerts and programs for local nursing homes. As a survivor on the USS Franklin, he attended yearly USS Franklin reunions, and his dedication to his crewmates and his ship never wavered. He served for many years as the president of the USS Franklin Museum Association. He was preceded in death by his wife, Helen, who passed away in August of 1995. He is survived by his current wife, Jeeranan "Nan", his son, Robert B., and his daughters, Helen Rehn, Joan Beccard and Janice St. Peters. He will be greatly missed by his eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Visitation will be from 4:00-8:00 p.m. Friday, February 11, 2011 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. A Mass of Christian burial will be at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, February 12, 2011, at Cathedral (SS Peter and Paul Catholic Church). Burial will be at St. Patrick's Cemetery with full military honors by the VFW Post 1308. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Alton Area Landmarks or the Helen St. Peters Memorial Library at SS Peter and Paul School.

PDF Printable Version

Tribute Wall



“ *Robert E. St. Peters*

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ *Robert E. St. Peters*

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ *We were sorry to read of your father's passing. We hope your memories of him are a source of comfort. He was certainly a person of consequence.*

Michael & Nyla Wendle - February 15, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *You have our deepest sympathy,*

Homer & Susie Henke

Robert E St. Peters - February 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM



“ *Helen, Joanie, Janice, Robbie,*

So sorry to hear of your loss. There are many who are sharing the sorrow in your hearts right now. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

Chip Vaughn - February 12, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ *Your family is in my prayers and thoughts at this time of your loss. I am sorry I will not be able to attend services due being out of town.*

MaryK.Curry(Wright) - February 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

DD

“ *Our condolences to your family.*

dave and anna dorner - February 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JC

“ *My sincere sympathy at the passing of Mr. St. Peters. My thoughts and prayers are with you. The essence of prayer is the total acceptance of God's will.*

I am sending you a memorial to the American Cancer Society.

JoAn Corbett - February 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ *One of the most significant things in my life was working with Bob and serving on the Landmarks board for over 23 years. Bob service to his country and community was unmatched and his devotion to his family an inspiration. Kerry Miller*

Kerry Miller - February 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BJ

“ Bob was a one-of-a-kind fellow. I first met him when I was taking violin lessons at LCCC. We played together in Camerata Strings and he organized a group of us to practice at his home. We were the "Kitchen Symphony" and he eventually took us "on the road" to play at nursing homes and adult day care centers. He was always a gentleman and a delightful sweet man, and it was a pleasure to be around him. His love of music and never-give-up attitude kept us playing even when we had broken strings and we outnumbered our audience! It was a privilege to have known such a remarkable man.

Barbara Jones - February 11, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MJ

“ My heart goes out to Robert St. Peters' children and grandchildren. You and your father/grandfather will be in our thoughts and prayers.

Michael J. - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

MC

“ Helen,

I am sorry to hear about your dad's passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you all.

martha pohlman craner - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TC

“ Bob was wonderful man and a delight to be around. Bob was also an avid supporter of the ARTS. Some of my favorite memories are playing music with Bob in his kitchen - we had a ball!

Tom Crammond - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

JM

“ When I think of Bob, I think of the USO shows that were put on by the college. He told us wonderful stories about his days in the Navy and how he met Helen at a USO club. We worked to make the shows authentic and memorable for him and others who were in armed forces, his eyes would just light up. What an era, what great songs were written and we came to know them because of Bob. I cry when I sing For All We Know .. good bye dear friend.

Julie McPike - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

ST

“ Bob was truly one of "The Greatest Generation". Kind, generous, brave and very intelligent. There are not enough kind words to describe this wonderful man. I will miss him.

Susan Travers - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

TF

“ WE ARE SO SORRY TO HEAR ABOUT YOUR DAD OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU AT THIS TIME IT WAS NICE GETTING TO KNOW YOU MAYBE NOT JUST IN THE ICU. TAKE CARE.

The Ghere Family - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

BR

“ It was such an honor to know Bob, through the USS Franklin reunions, where we have come to know the wonderful kids he and Helen raised, too. We thank him for his service to our country and all that he did to preserve the history and legacy of the USS Franklin and her men, and also the town of Alton, IL. Bob will truly be missed by many folks. God Bless! May the family be comforted and wrapped in Gods loving arms.

Beth & Chet Rowland - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

GW

“ *Deepest sympathies to the family. May God rest his soul.*

Gerald Waters - February 10, 2011 at 12:00 AM

KR

“ *Our thoughts and prayers go to your life and family. You are missed.*

BLESSINGS TO YOU

Ken & Lyn Ruckman - February 09, 2011 at 12:00 AM