



## Joseph Peterson, Jr.

August 29, 1926 - October 22, 2014

Joseph Peterson, Jr. of Cadillac passed away Wednesday, October 22, 2014 at Munson Medical Center in Traverse City. He was 88. He was born August 29, 1926 in Cadillac, Michigan to Joseph and Gladys (Mudgett) Peterson.

Joe farmed with his father before serving in the United States Army. Once he returned home Joe married Ruth Lucille Benson on November 28, 1952 in Cadillac where they established their own family farm and he continued to farm the rest of his life. Joe was well known and fondly remembered for his many years driving bus for the Cadillac Area Public Schools, retiring in 1994. He was also an A.I. Technician for over 30 years. He was a lifelong member of the South Community United Methodist Church. Joe was awarded conservation farmer of the year in Wexford County in 1979. He was dedicated to independent wood lot management and loved white pine trees. Joe regularly attended his 443rd Unit Army reunion. He enjoyed good old country music, driving his Kubota, picking flowers for his wife, Sunday walks or drives in the woods. Above all Joe loved children and spending time with his family.

He is survived by his wife, Ruth Lucille; children: Michael (Sue) Peterson of Bangor, Wisconsin, Bonnita "Bo" (Rudy) Winkler of Iron Mountain, Scott (Linda) Peterson of Marion, Cynthia (Pierre) Balthazar of Lansing, Patrick Peterson (Gina Jondrow) of Cadillac, Sallie (Steve) Broersma of Cadillac, Eric (Jennie) Peterson of Cadillac and Donna (Joby) Hertel of

Kalamazoo; 23 grandchildren; 10 great grandchildren; a sister, Ruth Francisco of Lansing; in laws, Hartley Benson of McBain, Robert Benson and Bernice Wondergem both of Cadillac and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, Carl Peterson and two sisters, Alice Geers and Mariam Benson.

Funeral services will be held 2:00 p.m. Saturday, October 25, 2014 at the South Community United Methodist Church in Cadillac with Reverend Jim Mort officiating. Friends may meet the family from 4-7 p.m. Friday at the Peterson Funeral Home in Cadillac. Burial will take place at Maple Hill Cemetery in Cadillac. Memorial contributions may be made to: American Heart Association, American Diabetes Association or South Community United Methodist Church. An online guestbook is available at [www.petersonfh.com](http://www.petersonfh.com).

# Tribute Wall

SU

“ *was my bus driver form Hollister school to Cadillac schools. Lived by him and am privileged to call him my friend. He will be greatly missed.*

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**Sandy (Mattison) Ueligger** - November 15, 2014 at 05:44 PM

KW

“ *Keeping your family in my thoughts and prayers..... I'm hoping that you are able to find peace having all of the wonderful memories you have of him and in the knowledge that he touched SOOOOO many lives... With love, Kris*

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**Kris Weatherwax** - October 31, 2014 at 06:55 AM

TM

“ *An amazingly strong yet gentle man. He will be remembered for so many years. His family is in my prayers.Thank you Joe for being such a great influence so many children's lives.*

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**Terri \"Weland\" Milliron** - October 27, 2014 at 08:45 PM

KA

“ *Joe made my day every morning going to school.He always had a smile.He was a great man.Sending you all prayers.*

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**KarenEdgecomb** - October 25, 2014 at 10:16 PM

MP

“ *Joe made the ride to school pleasurable. He was a great friend to me. I wish his family well and God bless.*

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**Mike Polega** - October 25, 2014 at 06:06 PM

SF

“ Sorry for your loss. Thoughts and prayers from our family to yours. I pray that God will give you a sense of peace that only he can give.

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**Scott Finstrom** - October 24, 2014 at 11:03 PM

SR

“ I rode Joe's school bus for many years. He was one of the kindest men I've ever met and I've thought of him often in the passing years. Peace to his surviving family, and Godspeed to a wonderful man!

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**Sherry Ginn Richards** - October 24, 2014 at 08:38 PM

NJ

“ So sorry for your loss. Our prayers are with you all.

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**Nels & Dorothy Jensen** - October 24, 2014 at 05:54 PM

JD

“ Joe was one of the best bus drivers ever!!! Happy memories, hugs and prayers to all.

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**Jeff & Theresa Durga** - October 24, 2014 at 04:01 PM

CP

“ Sad to hear we lost such a wonderful man, an anchor in the community. Praying for all the kids and their families. Much love.

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**Connie Meyer Place** - October 24, 2014 at 02:49 PM

MB

“ Keeping your families in our prayers in the days ahead.

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**Marv & Donna Bode** - October 24, 2014 at 01:28 PM

JC

“ Donna & family~  
Sending our prayers your way as you celebrate the life of you  
father.

John & Jessica Clark - October 24, 2014 at 10:35 AM

DS

“ Joe was an amazing man. I learned a lot from him as a bus driver.  
He became a valued friend as well. We will be praying for his family  
that God will bring peace and understanding.

Donna Sayer - October 24, 2014 at 10:09 AM

TN

“ Our thoughts and prayers are with your family.

Tom & Jill Nordwick - October 24, 2014 at 09:49 AM

KV

“ Remembering Joe today and thinking of his family. Many, many  
years he drove the athletic bus for the Cadillac Vikings. What a  
sweet, sweet man.

Kim VanderVlucht - October 24, 2014 at 09:03 AM

CS

“ My dear Uncle Joe made this world a better place. We are going to  
miss him, but know someday we will meet again.

Carolyn Shook - October 23, 2014 at 10:44 PM

LJ

“ He lived an impressive life filled with family and friends. We wish his  
family well.

Laura Johnson - October 23, 2014 at 08:54 PM