

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to

Humane Society of Pensacola 5 North Q Street Pensacola, FL 32505 850-432-4250	Gulf Coast Council Boy Scouts of America 9440 University Pkwy Pensacola, FL 32514 850-476-6336
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Do not stand at my grave and weep.

I am not there; I do not sleep.

I am a thousand winds that blow.

I am the diamond glints on snow.

I am the sunlight on ripened grain.

I am the gentle autumn rain.

When you awaken in the morning's hush

I am the swift uplifting rush

Of quiet birds in circled flight.

I am the soft stars that shine at night.

Do not stand at my grave and cry;

I am not there; I did not die.

- Mary Elizabeth Frye

The family wishes to thank the many friends who helped Walt during the past three years and especially acknowledges the support of the caregivers at Pacifica Senior Living, Creekside facility.

Memorial Service for Captain Walter R. Petersen United States Navy



Each soul must meet
the morning sun,
the new sweet earth,
and the great silence alone.

Dakota Indian Proverb

Friday, February 19, 2016

Captain Walter R. Petersen, United States Navy, of East Hill, died peacefully on December 18, 2015. He was born on July 14, 1931 in Dundee, NY, and graduated from the Rochester Institute of Technology, the University of Rhode Island, and the Naval War College.

Walt was an Eagle Scout and received his Wings of Gold as a Naval Aviator in 1954 and flew the A-1 *Skyraider* and A-4 *Skyhawk*. He served as the Commanding Officer of Attack Squadron Twelve, and the Commander of Fleet Activities on Okinawa Japan, before retiring from the Navy in 1984 and establishing residence in Pensacola. He flew over 160 combat missions and was the recipient of the Distinguished Flying Cross and Bronze Star Medal for his service during the Vietnam War.

He had a passion for archaeology, pottery, fishing, and travel, and had a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors and farming.

Captain Petersen is survived by his wife of 54 years, Betty, his daughter Rebecca of Monroe, NC, son Craig (Amy) of Oakland, CA, and brother William (Alice) of Haines City, FL.

He leaves behind a legacy of almost 100 years of naval aviation service – besides his own 32 year career, his son Craig, daughter-in-law Amy, grandson Austin, and granddaughter Audrey all flew or fly for the Navy.

Opening Musical Selection
Introduction
Somewhere Over the Rainbow
Professional Eulogy
Ode to My Grandfather
Family Eulogy
Memorial Service

Organist
Reverend Delarian Pogue
Ana Boesel
Commander Bob Brooks
Morgan Boesel
Captain Craig Petersen
Reverend Delarian Pogue

The Navy Hymn

Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!

Lord, guard and guide the men who fly
Through the great spaces in the sky.
Be with them always in the air.
In darkening storms or sunlight fair.
Oh, hear us when we lift our prayer
For those in peril in the air!

And when at length his course has run,
His work for home and country done.
Give comfort to those left behind.
And grant them peace of heart and mind
Oh, hear from heaven our sailor's cry,
And grant eternal life on high!

Please join the family graveside at Barrancas National Cemetery at 11:45 am today. You are invited for refreshments at the Mustin Beach Officers' Club immediately following the service at Barrancas.

