



## William A. Petersen MD

October 31, 1930 - February 7, 2025

Albany- William A. Petersen, MD was born October 31, 1930 in Kingston, NY, son of the late William H. and Geraldine V. (McCloskey) Petersen, brother of the late Peter F. (Susan) Petersen. Passed away peacefully on February 7, 2025 surrounded by his loving family.

He was educated in the public school system and graduated from Kingston High School, in 1948.

He entered Union University, Albany College of Pharmacy in September 1948, graduating as alternate valedictorian in 1952. Accepted at Albany Medical College in September 1952 and as a pharmacist, worked his way through Albany Medical College graduating in 1956 having been inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Medical Society.

After completing a medical internship under Dr. Richard Beebe, he entered military service in 1957 as a captain in the Army Medical Corp. He was stationed at the Landstuhl Army Medical Center in Landstuhl, Germany where he became involved in pediatrics. In 1960, after three years as a pediatric ward officer, he returned to Albany Medical Center to complete formal pediatric training. From 1962-1965 he was on the full-time pediatric staff devoting his time to teaching, supervising the pediatric clinic and was Medical Director of the March of Dimes Birth Defect clinic. He became Board Certified in pediatrics in 1963.

While on the full-time staff, he contributed to the chapter on pediatric care in a leading text book on Emergency Room Care, edited by Charles Eckert, Professor of Surgery at Albany Medical Center Hospital.

He was one of the original founders of Boland, Petersen & O'Dywer MD's, a private practice of pediatrics in Latham, NY, which expanded to include 5 additional pediatricians, and became known as Shaker Pediatrics, PC.

Positions held included Attending Physician at Albany Medical Center and St. Peter's Hospital and Clinical Professor of Pediatrics at Albany Medical College. He held previous positions at Albany Memorial Hospital, Samaritan and St. Mary's Hospitals in Troy, NY, Bellevue Maternity Hospital in Schenectady, NY and Nathan Littauer Hospital in Gloversville, NY.

He was married to Carole Greer Millard in October, 1955 whom he met during medical college while she was completing nursing courses at Russell Sage College. Father of William (Patricia Hennessy) Petersen, Timothy (Carol) Petersen, John (Johanne) Petersen and Carole Amy (Timothy) Pisinski. He was called "Doc" by his twelve grandchildren; William S. Petersen, Conor, Bryan, Evan & Tyler Petersen, Nicole, Stephen & Erika Petersen and Timothy, Robert, Michael, and Katie Pisinski.

He was a long-standing communicant of the historic St. Mary's Church in Albany and St. Pius X Church in Loudonville. Former member of the Knights of Malta and member of The Country Club of Troy, a club founded by his wife's grandfather in 1925 where he was active in golf and tennis and served on the Board of Governors for several terms.

An avid skier sharing his interest with his children and grandchildren, whenever possible. He "strategically" attended pediatric medical meetings at Vail, CO, and loved spending time with family and friends at their home in Quechee Lakes, VT. Other interests included annual trips to Bermuda,

gardening and repairing and refinishing antique furniture.

Memberships included: Fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, member of the Capital District Pediatric Society, Albany County and New York Medical Societies and the American Medical Association.

During Medical School and after returning from Germany, he became an active member of the Mendelssohn Club of Albany, one of the oldest men's choirs in the country.

In April, 2012 he was honored by the State of New York when the Legislative body under the guidance of Senator Neil Beslin passed Senate Resolution #4517 for professional excellence and making a significant contribution to the quality of life for citizens of New York, by sharing and improving healthcare for children.

In February, 2013 he was honored by the Starlight Foundation for his dedicated pediatric care of children from the tri-city area and beyond for 50+ years.

The family would like to thank the staff and caregivers of Right at Home, Albany NY for taking care of him at his home and the Staff at St. Peters Hospital for their care this week.

Donations in his honor can be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital in Memphis TN and/or Tunnel to Towers Foundation, in Staten Island, NY.

Relatives and friends are invited to visit with his family Thursday, February 13, 2025 4:00 pm to 7:00 pm at St. Pius X Church, 23 Crumitie Rd, Loudonville, NY 12211. Please enter through the doors of the Parish Life Center.

Funeral Services Friday, February 14, 2025 at 10:30 am at St. Pius X Church, Loudonville, NY where his funeral Mass will be celebrated.

The Rite of Committal will be held at St. Peter's Cemetery, Troy, NY immediately following the Mass.

To leave a message for the family or view other helpful services please visit [www.mcveighfuneralhome.com](http://www.mcveighfuneralhome.com).

# Cemetery Details

## St. Peter's Cemetery

Oakwood Ave  
Troy, NY

# Previous Events

## Visitation

FEB 13. 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

St. Pius X Church  
23 Crumitie Rd  
Loudonville, NY 12211  
(518) 462-1336

*Please enter through the Parish Life Center doors.*

## Funeral Mass

FEB 14 (ET)

St. Pius X Church  
23 Crumitie Rd  
Loudonville, NY 12211  
(518) 462-1336

# Tribute Wall

SM

“ We have just learned of Bill's passing. I had the pleasure to work with Bill at St Peter's Hospital as a practicing Emergency Physician. He was a great physician and a wonderful gentleman. He will be sorely missed. Our prayers are with him and the family. Sincerely,  
Dr Samuel and Carol Bosco

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**Samuel Bosco MD** - March 04, 2025 at 03:40 PM

LF

“ Dear Family of Dr. Petersen,  
  
I remember John from St. Pius X, the Hood, and our shared school bus rides. I can still recall his sun-kissed tan after a weekend of snow skiing inspired and supported by his Dad.

Professionally, as an RN and RN Case Manager, I resonate. Dr. Petersen's brilliance as a pharmacist and then a pediatrician, improving the quality of care and painstakingly managing his anxieties about doctoring sick kids and worried parents, was truly remarkable and worthy of admiration.

With heartfelt sympathy and warmest regards,

Lisa Dorries (Thornton Family)

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**Lisa Dorries (Thornton Family)** - February 15, 2025 at 02:56 PM

BP

Lisa, thank you!

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**Bill Petersen** - February 19, 2025 at 09:17 AM

LF

“ Lisa F. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of William A. Petersen MD.

Lisa F. - February 13, 2025 at 11:47 PM

AA

“ Dr. Petersen was my pediatrician from age one until the day I came in while home from college and he laughed and told me that would be my last visit there. Then, when I was a resident covering the pediatrics floor at St. Pete's and he walked onto the floor, I reintroduced myself. His immediate response upon hearing my name was to recite back to me the address of my long-gone childhood home. He was smart, kind, and a great doc to me both as a patient needing care and as a resident needing mentoring. My condolences to the Petersen family and to all who were blessed to know Dr. Petersen.  
-Andy Alpart

Andrew Alpart - February 13, 2025 at 05:48 PM

BP

A great remembrance, thanks Andy.

Bill Petersen - February 19, 2025 at 09:18 AM

HF

“ Please accept my sincere sympathy to Dr. Petersen's family. Dr. Petersen was our two kid's pediatrician until he retired. He was so kind, supportive, wonderful bedside manner, gentle and very reassuring to us as parents. Our kids are now 31 and 26. When I told them of his passing, they were so sad to hear this news. May he rest in peace!

Hungerford Family - February 13, 2025 at 04:59 PM

BP

*Thank you so much!*

Bill Petersen - February 19, 2025 at 09:18 AM



“ *Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of William A. Petersen MD.*



February 12, 2025 at 04:15 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William A. Petersen MD.

February 12, 2025 at 04:15 PM

SJ

“ *Please accept my sincere condolences to Bill's entire family. He was truly one of the most compassionate human beings I have had the privilege to know. Bill was a wonderful pediatrician for my kids and joined us at the restaurant for lunch almost daily. We were blessed to have him with us for so long.*

Susan O'Hearn Jordan - February 12, 2025 at 03:19 PM

MH

“ *So saddened to read of Dr. Petersen's passing. He was such a kind and compassionate pediatrician to our two children. We enjoyed seeing him at mass at St. Pius. Our prayers and sympathy to his family. May his memory be a blessing for all of us.*

*Mary & Peter Hines*

Mary Hines - February 12, 2025 at 12:39 PM

BP

*Thanks so much Mary!*

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**Bill Petersen** - February 12, 2025 at 03:03 PM

MB

“ *Carole and Family,*

*Dan and I have been so fortunate to have spent over 30 years as your next door neighbors on Ross Court. Bill was always exceptionally kind and conversant as we admired his impeccable gardening skills and the way he lovingly tended to your homestead. For many years at the bus stop, we could count on his friendly wave as he returned home from 6:30am Mass at St. Pius. Please accept our sincerest condolences on the loss of your inimitable old school patriarch. I hope you will find comfort knowing that he is in a special place in heaven exclusively reserved for class acts.*

*Maryann & Dan Brennan*

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**Maryann Brennan** - February 12, 2025 at 12:24 PM

BP

*Maryann and Dan, thanks so much. My Dad enjoyed having you as his neighbors and always spoke very highly of you and your family*

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**Bill Petersen** - February 12, 2025 at 03:09 PM

BO

“ *Please accept our sincere sympathy for the loss of your father. Dr. Petersen was our daughters pediatrician from 1968 til college. He was exceptional, so kind and reassuring. He made a difference and will fondly remembered. RIP Carol & Bob O'Connell*

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**Bob & Carol O'Connell** - February 11, 2025 at 05:17 PM

DC

“ *Billy, & to all the Peterson Family Members my sincere condolences...  
May He Rest In The Peace Of Christ.....  
don castle.....*

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**don william castle** - February 11, 2025 at 02:58 PM

BP

*Petersen*

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**Bryan Petersen** - February 12, 2025 at 09:16 AM

BP

*Thanks so much Don! I'm sure my Dad would want to know if you are still playing and have your racquet case?*

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**Bill Petersen** - February 13, 2025 at 02:21 PM

PC

“ *Dear Bill, Tim, John and Carole,  
Sad to learn of your Dad's passing. He played such an honorable and valuable role in our Town caring for so many generations. Dad has left our Town better than he found it. You remain in my prayers.*

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**Peter G. Crummey** - February 11, 2025 at 01:55 PM

BP

*Peter, thanks. My Dad was always very appreciative for all the help and guidance you provided him with over the years.*

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**Bill Petersen** - February 12, 2025 at 03:12 PM

AS

“ My mother had told me stories about her favorite pediatrician, and said that as a child I called him 'Peter Doctorsen'. She raved about how kind, knowledgeable and caring he was. When I had my first child, the pediatrician on rounds in St Peter's came in- and there he was- Dr. Petersen. He cared for me as a child, and then my own three kids at Shaker Pediatrics. He had such a way of making a parent feel at ease, and my kids adored him. An amazing man, and a life of such selfless service.

Alicia Sullivan - February 11, 2025 at 11:32 AM

BP

Alicia, thanks so much. We all got a kick out of the nickname 'Peter Doctorsen'

Bill Petersen - February 13, 2025 at 02:23 PM

AS

Much love to all of you. Patrick went to school with Michael P.

alicia sullivan - February 14, 2025 at 08:14 PM



“ Best Pediatrician ever. He was so insightful and seemed to know exactly what to do to make my children feel better and my life less stressful. He was always patient, understanding and supportive and made me feel like I was a great mother who knew what she was doing. He will be missed. A wonderful doctor and a kind person.

Elizabeth Rossi - February 10, 2025 at 10:20 PM

CO

“ *Dr. Petersen was an amazing pediatrician and cared for my three sisters and I from the day we were born through our early 20s. He was incredibly kind, compassionate, and intelligent, and in reading his obituary, i'm glad to learn he contributed to medicine in numerous other ways as well.*

*He will be greatly missed!*

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**Christine O'Connor** - February 10, 2025 at 09:34 PM



“ *Joyful Memory was purchased for the family of William A. Petersen MD.*



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February 10, 2025 at 08:00 PM



“ *A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William A. Petersen MD.*

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February 10, 2025 at 08:00 PM

JP

“ *John & Laurie Powers purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of William A. Petersen MD.*



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**John & Laurie Powers** - February 10, 2025 at 07:18 PM



“ *Country Basket Blooms was purchased for the family of William A. Petersen MD.*



February 10, 2025 at 06:48 PM



“ A [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) was planted in honor of William A. Petersen MD.

February 10, 2025 at 06:48 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of William A. Petersen MD.*



February 10, 2025 at 06:25 PM



“ *Love, Mary, Steve, Mellissa, Stephanie purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of William A. Petersen MD.*



**Love, Mary, Steve, Mellissa, Stephanie** - February 10, 2025 at 06:01 PM