



John "Whitey" Peters

October 30, 1945 - March 26, 2023

John S. "Whitey" Peters, admired leader and devoted family man, died Sunday, March 26, 2023 at his home in Aurora, Illinois. He was 77 years old.

Whitey, who wore many hats with ease and vigor throughout his expansive life, was born in 1945 in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the eldest child of parents Margaret and Henry Jean Peters. When he was still young, Whitey and his parents moved to Aurora, Illinois where he would make countless, indelible marks on the fabric of the community. Whitey's lifelong relationship with Aurora started with his education: initially as student at Holy Angels Catholic School, then as senior class president at West Aurora High School, class of 1963, and also as a soccer player and energetic graduate of Aurora University, class of 1968.

While a student at West High, Whitey met his wife and partner of 60 years, Kay Savage. They married in 1967, lovingly made their home in Aurora, and had four children together: John, Marcy, Matt, and Bryan.

In his professional life, Whitey first demonstrated his stalwart commitment to his own community by returning to Holy Angels as a lively educator and dynamic coach in 1970. Whitey influenced a generation of learners while teaching history and government and coaching football and basketball until 1985. He continued as Holy Angels' head football coach for another 10 years

as his roles in civic organizations expanded. Whitey was an active, elected political figure for over 38 years in Aurora, first as township clerk for 26 years and later as alderman.

Whitey worked with the Fox Valley Park District for over a decade—managing men’s slow-pitch leagues and in other positions—before becoming athletic director in the mid-90s. He organized citywide sports teams and tournaments, and he supported players of all ages with fairness and enthusiasm. In addition, Whitey was a spirited umpire and referee at innumerable sporting events deepening his direct and personal impact on people from all over the Fox Valley area.

In 2003, Whitey was elected alderman of the fifth ward of Aurora, a position he held with the utmost integrity until his retirement in 2015. During his 12 years as alderman, Whitey was the consummate public servant and unwavering community advocate. He was always available to listen to every constituent’s concern and oversaw myriad community projects and improvements. Whitey initiated the city’s annual Neighborhood Clean-Up Day and led the establishment and beautification of the Sunrise Rotary Club Park. He was also passionate about supporting the Special Olympics, honoring veterans, and celebrating local school victories.

Whitey is remembered not only for his steadfast dedication to community and civic affairs but also for his charm, wit, and larger-than-life personality. It is difficult to go far in Aurora without running into someone who has a connection with Whitey and a funny story to tell. Whitey touched the lives of everyone he met.

Nevertheless, of all his accomplishments, the one of which he was most proud was his family: his 60 years with Kay, his four children, and his eleven grandchildren. With joy and compassion, he fostered growth and individuality

in his children. His family was the love of his life.

Whitey is survived by his wife Kay; his children, John (Joann) Peters, Marcy Green (Mark) Eichelberger, Matt (Amy) Peters, Bryan Peters (Jaime Linares); his grandchildren: Sam, Ally, Genna, and Alex Peters; Kylee & Logan Green and Megan & Sarah Eichelberger; Audrey, Maxwell, and Lu Peters; his siblings, Mary Tracey, Mike Peters, Joe Peters; as well as beloved nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Whitey is predeceased by his mother and father, Margaret and Henry Jean Peters, and by his brother, Chris Peters.

A visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 4, 2023 from 3:00 until 8:00PM at THE DALIEDEN MORTUARY, 220 North Lake Street, Aurora. The celebration of life will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 at 10:00AM at Daleiden Mortuary. In lieu of flowers, donations should be made to Saint Jude Children's Research Hospital (stjude.org), Parkinson & Movement Disorder Alliance (pmdalliance.org), American Parkinson Disease Association (apdaparkinson.org), or Parkinson's Foundation (parkinson.org).

Please visit our website at www.daleidenmortuary.com where you may leave condolences for Whitey's family.

Previous Events

Memorial Visitation

APR 4. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Memorial Service

APR 5. 10:00 AM (CT)

Daleiden Mortuary
220 N. Lake Street
Aurora, IL 60506
(630) 631-5500
daleidenmortuary@gmail.com
<https://www.daleidenmortuary.com>

Tribute Wall



“ Daleiden Mortuary created a Tribute Video in memory of John "Whitey" Peters



Daleiden Mortuary - March 31, 2023 at 03:06 PM

BH

“ I remember one day in 8th Grade history class, Mr. Peters had been talking about the power of numbers, but how an individual contribution matters. He has asked David DeScoto to come up to the front of the class and brought out a box of toothpicks. He asked David to try to break it in half. David did with ease. Mr. Peters then asked David to grab the entire box of toothpicks and try to snap them in half. David struggled for 2-3 seconds, but then the timber gave way. Mr. Petersburg said nobody in all his teaching years ever did that. For this that don't k is David, he was one strong kid (& fast). RIP Mr. Peters and tell my Nana, Lillie Hankes, your old next door neighbor I said hi. Brian Hawking. Class of 1981

Brian Hawking - May 08, 2023 at 06:55 PM

KT

“ I'm so sorry to hear of Whiteys passing!! We had so many laughs working together at FVPD. Lifting your entire family in prayer and love! May his beautiful soul rest in peace!
Katie



Katie Morlock Troline - May 05, 2023 at 09:02 AM

RM

“ My condolences to the family of John "Whitey" Peters, my fellow member of the Aurora City Council and one of the statesmen of our community. Always ready with something funny or, equally, something highly pertinent to our Council deliberations, Whitey was a mentor to many on the Council, at the Fox Valley Park District and Aurora Township. He left this world better than found it. Thank you, Whitey. Rick Mervine, former 8th Ward Alderman

Richard Mervine - April 04, 2023 at 08:33 PM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John "Whitey" Peters.



April 04, 2023 at 01:05 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of John "Whitey" Peters.



April 03, 2023 at 04:55 PM

LO

“ Condolences to Whiteys family. I was a friend of Whiteys for about 30j years he will be missed Larry Oncken

LARRY ONCKEN - April 03, 2023 at 02:33 PM

JB

So sad to hear the news of Whitey's passing. Our sympathies for Kay and the entire Peters family. Jay and Peggy Bauer

Jan, Peggy Bauer - April 04, 2023 at 01:00 PM

KM

“ *To the Peters family, I am truly sorry for your loss. Whitey was a great man. Always talked about his family with love and pride. I cut his hair for years on the west side of Aurora and I looked forward to seeing him. He brightened my day with his stories and never left without telling me a good joke. He will be missed.*

Kristie McCarthy

Kristie McCarthy - April 02, 2023 at 08:52 AM

JS

“ *This man got me into referring grade school basketball and that defined so much of my twenties and a little of my thirties. I could never repay what that meant to me. Love ya my friend and thank you*

Jimmy Spiers

JIM SPiers - March 31, 2023 at 05:52 PM



“ 51 files added to the album Life Tributes



Daleiden Mortuary - March 31, 2023 at 03:04 PM

SR

“ Oh, Marce and the entire Peters family. I'm so sorry for your loss.

Stacy Rukas - March 31, 2023 at 11:50 AM

ET

I just learned about Whitey's death. I was so saddened to hear this as he was a classmate at Aurira and always had a sweet smile and a great hello when we met on campus. I remember him with fondness and know you all miss him with love

ELAINE RICE TAGGART - April 21, 2023 at 02:40 PM

NT

“ NT Capital, Resolution & MRPA Team purchased the Gracious Lavender Basket for the family of John "Whitey" Peters.



NT Capital, Resolution & MRPA Team - March 31, 2023 at 11:37 AM



“ *Enduring Grace was purchased for the family of John "Whitey" Peters.*



March 30, 2023 at 04:04 PM



“ *Love, Your Mather Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of John "Whitey" Peters.*



Love, Your Mather Family - March 30, 2023 at 09:24 AM



“ *I got to know Whitey when we coached basketball between Batavia Jr. High and Holy Angels. Then I umpired in his softball leagues at Green Fields on the west side of Aurora. Before long we teamed up and refereed basketball games together.*

Whitey knew everyone in the gym. And it was a ton of fun to be around him.

Whitey loved his family and his extended family. And he especially loved Aurora. Being a township clerk and then an alderman were examples of his commitment to community service.

When you said 'Whitey' in Aurora everyone knew who you meant. My friend, you will be missed. Rest in peace.

David F. Moe - March 29, 2023 at 08:26 PM

DS

“ I had the great honor to serve on the Aurora City Council, Aurora, IL with your husband and father for a number of years. He was always the professional and also a great friend. The City of Aurora has lost a great person and a humble servant of the community. God Bless Whitey and his family.
Former Mayor David L. Stover

David Stover - March 29, 2023 at 08:08 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John "Whitey" Peters.



March 29, 2023 at 08:04 PM