

Donald Wayne Peterson

Age 88, of Edina, passed away April 23, 2014. Don was born on Dec. 21, 1925 and spent his early years in small towns in North Dakota during the Great Depression. He graduated from Wahpeton High School and attended the North Dakota State School of Science. Don joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a clerk and served in FBI offices in Sioux Falls, SD and St. Paul, MN until his graduation from the University of Minnesota in 1949.



He was appointed a Special Agent of the FBI in July 1949 and after his initial training in Washington, D.C. was assigned to FBI offices in Baltimore, MD; Boston, MA; Portland, ME; Providence, RI; Chicago, IL; and Minneapolis MN. Don spent his FBI years busting inter-state car theft rings, going after the “mob” and chasing kidnappers, while protecting residents of the areas he served.

Don retired from the FBI in 1976. After retirement he worked as a private investigator and firearms instructor for the Pinkerton Detective Agency and the MN Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. He was active in the Law Enforcement Exploring Division of the Boy Scouts of America, the Crosstown Y’s Men’s Club and the Society of Former Special Agents of the FBI. He was awarded scouting’s highest council adult honor, the Silver Beaver Award, and received other recognitions for his community service. He also spent countless freezing winter hours helping to staff the Y’s Men’s Christmas tree lot at the Southdale YMCA.

Don enjoyed many hunting and fishing trips with his pals and also spent many sunny days golfing. Bad guys and animals saw him and ran – fish and golf balls had much less to fear.

The family extends a heartfelt thank you to the staff and caregivers at Brookdale Senior Living in Edina who made Don’s life richer and safer through their devotion to his care.

Don lived his life with honor and integrity and a strong devotion to his family, the Lutheran Church, the FBI, and civic organizations.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 55 years, Kathleen. He is survived by his companion, Georgia Freeman, brother Robert Peterson (Marilyn), sons Tom (Peggy Gunn), and Bill (Emily), daughters Margaret Overby (Chuck) and Kathy Whetzel (Jim) and six grand-children.

Memorials suggested to Normandale Lutheran Church Foundation or Boy Scouts of America, Northern Star Council.

Services will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, May 10, at Normandale Lutheran Church, Edina, with a luncheon following.