



Billy Joe Peterson

July 4, 1939 - August 20, 2020

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, September 11, 2020, at 6:00 pm, on the grounds of the Marze Family home with Reverend Fred Fraser at 327 Mayo Blvd, Sunset, Louisiana for Billy Joe Peterson, age 81. He peacefully passed away Thursday morning, August 20, 2020 at his home in Lafayette surrounded by his wife, daughters, and closest family.

A graveside service will be held on Saturday, September 12, 2020, at 3:00 pm at Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery in Florien, Louisiana. Reverend Wilton "Tony" Anthony, Pastor of Siloam Baptist Church in Many, Louisiana will conduct the graveside service.

Survivors include his beloved wife of 52 years, Barbara Ann Peterson; his daughters, Shaunda Peterson Johnson and her husband, Trey; Tonya Peterson Borill and her husband, Josh; and grandchildren, Jake Johnson, Payton Johnson, Major Peterson, Gage Peterson, Reese Cortez, Rhyann Borill, and Hayes Borill; his sisters Becky Lehr and Connie Sandel, a host of nieces, nephews, friends, and his precious dog Lily Ann.

He was preceded in death by his parents, S.D. and Dollie Peterson; his son, Dannon Luke Peterson; his sister, Ann Salter and her husband Jerry Salter; his brother, Ben D. Peterson; and his nephew, Cassell Lehr.

Abraham Lincoln once said, "And in the end, it's not the years in your life that count; it's the life in your years." Billy Joe lived a BIG life! He entered this world on the 4th of July, 1939, in Florien, Louisiana. He grew up living the typical life of a farm boy, hard work and hard play (chopping wood, hauling hay in the bottom, swimming in Toro Creek, fishing at Toledo Bend, riding horses and even trying to ride cows).

After several years studying agriculture at Northwestern State University, Billy Joe changed his career path. At age 21, he hitchhiked from North Louisiana to South Louisiana and talked his way into his first job in the oilfield. This began a career that would

last over 50 years. He started as a rig hand and worked his way to Vice President. A colleague and dear friend, Carl Thorne, once shared that the famed oilfield firefighter Red Adair “loved Billy because he had no fear. Billy would walk into the mouth of a fire side-by-side with Red. Billy is as good an oilfield hand as exists in the world today.”

On a stint home from Iran, Billy met the love of his life, Barbara Knowlton. After 28-days of courtship they were married and began a life of adventure living in Iran, Oman, Qatar, and Dubai, United Arab Emirates before returning home to the USA in 1984.

In 1987, Billy left SEDCO to join ENSCO, partnering with his lifelong friends who he described as “a bunch of hard-headed, hard driving stubborn fellas. Failure wasn’t in their vocabulary.” And succeed they did! Billy Joe and Steve Gruver set up shop at a Holiday Inn in Lafayette and 20 years later the office in Broussard was the headquarters for ENSCO’s North and South American Operations. Billy gave all that he had to ENSCO until they day he retired in 2011.

Billy lived the rest of his years in South Louisiana but Sabine Parish was always in his heart. He spent his retirement traveling between Lafayette and his much loved Toledo Bend. He was always happiest when surrounded by his family and friends.

Honorary Pallbearers will be: Wayne Lehr, Dickey Marze, Dayton Marze, Hayden Marze, Steele Merritt, Slade Bienvenu, Stephen Peterson, Stone Peterson, Nic McCormic, Robert Dale Geoghagan, Bob Geoghagan, Conrad Cathey, Henry Lee Davis, Dean Walters, Kelly Mahoney, Chris Calagna, Craig Gonzales, Jeff Saile, and Bill Chadwick.

Heartfelt appreciation is extended by the entire Peterson family to Heart of Hospice for the excellent care given to our Pop. A special thank you to Courtney Picard, Nicole Deaville, Becca Vidrine and Leslie Cormier for loving him like their own.

Billy was proud to be an American and born on the 4th of July. His family will be wearing red, white and blue to the outdoor celebration on Friday, August 28th. They would love for you to join them, dress casually in your favorite patriotic colors!

View the obituary and guestbook online at www.mourning.com

Martin & Castille-SOUTHSIDE-600 E. Farrel Rd., Lafayette, LA 70508, 337-984-2811

Cemetery

Events

Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery

Florien, LA,

**SEP
11**

Celebration of Life 06:00PM - 08:00PM

Marze Family Home

327 Mayo Boulevard, Sunset, LA, US, 70584

**SEP
12**

Graveside Service 03:00PM - 04:00PM

Ebenezer Baptist Church Cemetery

Florien, LA, US

Comments



“ A tribute video has been added.



Martin & Castille Funeral Home - August 25, 2020 at 02:30 PM



“ Oh my goodness, my heart - this man. I love you Pop. A man's man, rough and tough but oh the biggest heart. I will cherish our last hug and kiss. What a wonderful legacy you leave, what a life filled with faith and love, the blessings of a beautiful marriage, a loving wife and family. Thanks for the smiles and those baby blues. We miss you but God has you now, soar like an Eagle - Margaret Greene

Margaret - September 09, 2020 at 07:57 AM



“ My deepest condolences to the Peterson family. I knew Billy while working at EnSCO from 1996-2000. He lived his values and was transparent, if not unyielding, about his intentions but always with the aim of doing the right thing, for the right reason, the first time. I am better for having known Billy Joe and consider myself fortunate to call him a friend. May he Rest In Peace. Khaled Farag

Khaled Farag - September 14, 2020 at 06:09 PM



“ Billy Joe Inspired young men to become the best you can be, I was one of those young men. RIP BJP and thank you.

Paul Panko - September 12, 2020 at 07:26 AM



“ Billy Joe gave A LOT of young men good paying jobs that fed their families. We need more like him.

Russell Peace - September 11, 2020 at 05:49 PM



“ Steve Doerr, Romeo Garcia, Don Hataway purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



Steve Doerr, Romeo Garcia, Don Hataway - September 11, 2020 at 11:23 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



September 11, 2020 at 10:34 AM



“ Love Lee and Patti purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



Love Lee and Patti - September 11, 2020 at 10:08 AM



“ My sincere condolences to all the family and thoughts and love - prayers please for me I am being admitted to the hospital and leave home soon - ambulance apparently must have oxygen - loelyou all and dear Billy Joe God bles him and keep him safe
Chips



Chips westwood - September 11, 2020 at 06:45 AM



“ Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



September 10, 2020 at 04:09 PM



“ CBH's Psychologist Team purchased the Full Of Love Bouquet for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



CBH's Psychologist Team - September 08, 2020 at 02:59 PM



“ Billy Joe was a man and a legend in the oil industry. I was with Ensco working in the Dallas headquarters and I kept hearing stories about Billy Joe Peterson. Then after a year I was transferred to Houston, working on a shipyard project. One day after several months on the project, it spread like wildfire that Billy Joe Peterson was coming to the shipyard to see how the project was progressing, and would attend our morning meeting. I can tell you now that not all the stories about him were true. For example, the first time I meet him he was only 6 ft 4 he was not 10 feet tall.

Everyone who worked with Billy Joe respected him, and those that were fortunate loved the man, and many of use learned from his “cut to the chase” insight and wisdom. We will all miss him.

Steve Doerr - September 03, 2020 at 02:53 PM



“ Oh my gosh! These stories mean so much to us! Thank you for sharing! Shaunda
Shaunda - September 03, 2020 at 10:01 PM



“ Thank you, Steve, for sharing the wonderful memory of Billy Joe!
The family appreciates your kind words. Barbara
Barbara A. Peterson - September 03, 2020 at 11:30 PM



“ Magnificent Life Spray was purchased for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



September 02, 2020 at 02:41 PM



“ Henry and Jan Gruver purchased the Enduring Grace for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



Jan Gruver - September 01, 2020 at 01:13 PM



“ 83 files added to the album LifeTributes



Martin & Castille Funeral Home - September 01, 2020 at 11:05 AM



“ To the entire Peterson Families, please accept our deepest condolences on the passing of Billy Joe. So many great memories of times in Dubai. Billy Joe was a client and a friend. He always treated individuals with respect and had strength of character, honesty, integrity packaged with a great sense of humor. May God's Grace and the prayers of so many comfort the entire family.
Butch and Judy Kamps



Butch & Judy Kamps - August 27, 2020 at 02:07 PM



“ Mr. Butch and Mrs. Judy. Thank you so much for the kind words and the wonderful photos
Thank you so much for the kind words and the wonderful photos. We didn't have these!

Shaunda - September 03, 2020 at 10:02 PM



“ Thank you so much for sharing these awesome photos and your loving words. We sure miss that big fella!

tonya borill - September 03, 2020 at 10:44 PM



“ I remember Billy as a big man with a big heart who commanded respect by his very presence. That he knew the oil patch through and through and could connect on any level with the men that moved the iron made it a privilege for me to work alongside him, memories of which I will never forget.

Simon Hall

Simon J Hall - August 25, 2020 at 01:44 PM



“ I had a privilege of meeting & working with Billy Joe whenever he was visiting Ensco Middle East region, He was a great mentor and human that made good impression in many hearts. He may be gone from our sight, but never from our hearts.

With a heavy heart,

Selvam R

Selvam Rengasamy - August 24, 2020 at 09:46 PM



“ The Valaris Family purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



The Valaris Family - August 24, 2020 at 04:49 PM



“ With deepest sympathy. His passing is a loss to many of us.

Rebecca Allen - August 24, 2020 at 02:52 PM



“ I remember before got hired on with Ensco. I was working with ABS at the time and I went offshore to go do some surveys on an Ensco rig out of Intercoastal City. Little did I know I was flying out with Billy Joe, Barry Todd and someone else whom I can't recall. I met them all at the heliport where we all introduced ourselves.

When we got to the rig I went on about my business and every time I saw Billy Joe on the rig he'd ask me how it was going and I tried to remember all of Billy Joe's name, but I couldn't. I called him Billy Ed, Billy Bob, Billy Ray...I must've called him every combination of Billy there was known to man, and he'd just look at me like I had 3 heads.

Little did I know I'd be supporting his operations a cpl years later. It was a real pleasure and Honor to work for Billy Joe and Ensco!!

Romeo Garcia
Sr. Operations Engineer
Ensco NSA - Broussard

Romeo Garcia - August 24, 2020 at 02:07 PM



“ Tonya,

We were saddened to hear of your dad's passing. You & your family have our sympathy.

Gary & Missy Thibodeaux

Gary Thibodeaux - August 24, 2020 at 02:06 PM

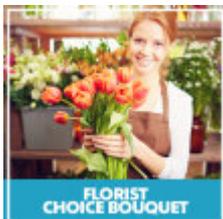


“ Thank you Gary and Missy

tonya borill - September 09, 2020 at 11:33 PM



“ Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



August 24, 2020 at 02:06 PM



“ I will never forget my working time and off time laughs with Billy Joe in Nigeria, the UK and the USA - he will be missed. One of the old breed. God speed and condolences to his family. - Dale

Dale Stringer - August 24, 2020 at 02:00 PM



“ Billy Joe was a larger than life character and one of the reasons Ensco became successful. He will be sorely missed. Condolences to his family and friends.

Pete Mathieson - August 24, 2020 at 12:51 PM



“ Billy Joe was a great man that was as down to earth as they come! I was blessed to have worked for him in the early 90's at Ensco and everyone listened when he spoke! He was a true monarch in the oil patch and left a lifelong impression on me! RIP Billy Joe! Heaven has gained the toughest angel I've ever known!

With a heavy heart,
John Anderson

John Anderson - August 24, 2020 at 11:26 AM



“ I worked with Billy Joe several times over the years with ENSCO. He was one of the few men in the office who cared about the guys on the rig. He was a good man.

Brent Humphries - August 24, 2020 at 10:43 AM



“ Barb; I don't even know how to express the sorrow I feel. You and Billy were such a fun couple and good match. God gave you a great friend and husband and what a ride you two had. Remember the good times. DiAnn & Jerry Alford

Di Ann Alford - August 23, 2020 at 03:49 PM



“ I was around 12 years old when I met this monster of a man in Iran. Scared me with his roaring voice and fortitude. Then over time began to see the kindness and gentleness of the big bear. Hired on with Sedco in 1984 and sent to his office hi Dubai. Waiting at locked front door he arrived about 7am and let me in. Had coffee and chatted for a while and sent me down the road to Sharjah to work with Jeff Saile and Mike Foster. Then Ensco when all good Sedco folks started company up. Never changed from that point. I will never forget. What an amazing man he is!

Mitch Meroney - August 22, 2020 at 07:00 PM



“ What an awesome story! Thanks for sharing Mr. Mitch
Love,
Tonya

Tonya - August 22, 2020 at 08:17 PM



“ Our John Wayne and angel that saved my life back in the Iran days on rig 13 blowout and enabled my family to thrive after that event. Always supportive and strong willed. Never forget the softball team he gathered to beat up on the oil company in the championship in 1978 in southern Iran. What a family he had and a love them all. My family will never forget. Lord is getting a big bunch of help to keep everyone straight.

Love, the Randy Smith Family

Randy Smith - August 22, 2020 at 05:00 PM



“ No way!!! How awesome!
Love,
Tonya

Tonya - August 22, 2020 at 08:18 PM



“ Mr Randy. I asked Baba if she could tell us the story but the memory is fuzzy. I bet it's not fuzzy for you! Tonya and I would love to hear it! Shaunda

Shaunda Johnson - August 22, 2020 at 11:38 PM



“ I did not know this man but after reading his obituary I could see that he was someone special, rest in peace Mr. Billy and God bless your family

Kathy Ashworth - August 22, 2020 at 01:52 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



August 22, 2020 at 12:26 PM



“ Oh Pops! I consider myself privileged and honored to have had you in my life! Your love of life, family and friendship was so strong and shined through everything. I know you'll be watching over your girls! Love you!

Jenny Trenary Puzino - August 22, 2020 at 10:45 AM



“ Jenny, thank you so much for your sweet words. Pop loved you too. He always wanted to know if Shaunda had heard from J. Megs! We love you!!

Barbara Peterson - September 11, 2020 at 12:35 PM



“ With our deepest sympathy,
What a homecoming reunion for the Peterson's , Rest In Peace Billy Joe. Praying for your family in their time of loss.
Terry and Nannette Ebarb and family

Nannette Ebarb - August 22, 2020 at 10:26 AM



“ With my forever deepest sympathy,
Prayers for your family in this time of loss.

JoAnn Tramel Suplicki



JoAnn Suplicki - August 22, 2020 at 10:22 AM



“ Rest in peace Mr. Billy Joe Peterson. Prayers for all his family and friends.

James Garrott - August 22, 2020 at 05:26 AM



“ We remember the good times and friendship that stays with us forever. We celebrate your life and being your friend. Until we meet again all our love and prayers to Barbara and the family, Jim & Fran Larsen and family

Jim Larsen - August 22, 2020 at 12:31 AM



“ Billy, you will be greatly missed and I truly enjoyed working with you for Sedco and Ensco. I recall many times you stepping on the sedco 75 in the UAE putting your arm around me and saying son how you doing. The oil field lost one hell of a guy And I will always remember the butt chewing and advise you shared. Condolence to the family and a I know Danon will carrying on your Legacy

Tom Morin

tom morin - August 21, 2020 at 11:11 PM



“ Please know that your family is in our thoughts and prayers. Aden and Carol Keeter

Carol Keeter - August 21, 2020 at 08:56 PM



“ Pat, Jim, Vance and Stephen purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



Pat Kirksey - August 21, 2020 at 07:24 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Billy Joe Peterson.



August 21, 2020 at 05:35 PM