



Vernon Earle Petersen

August 8, 1944 - December 10, 2024

Vernon Earle Petersen, 80, of Harlingen, Texas, passed away peacefully on December 10, 2024. Born on August 8, 1944, in Libertyville, Illinois, Vernon was the beloved son of Fredrick J. Petersen and Evora Carlson.

Vernon graduated from Bradley University, where his athletic talent shone as a member of the university's baseball team. He also pursued his passion for sports by playing semi-professional football. Throughout his life, Vernon remained active, enjoying league softball and keeping with his passion for sports, in his later years Vern enjoyed golfing having 2 holes-in-one within the last 2 years.

Vernon began his career in education, teaching for the McHenry Independent School District. His dedication to public service later led him to a role as Administrator for four correction facilities for the State of Illinois until his retirement.

After retiring, Vernon and his devoted wife, Darlene, embraced a new chapter of life in the Rio Grande Valley, spending winters there for many years before making it their permanent home.

Vernon is survived by his loving wife of 46 years, Darlene L. Petersen; his daughter, Rita Marie Petersen; his cherished granddaughter, Melissa "Missa"

(as he indearly called her) Ann Henry; his sister-in-law, Marlene E. Petersen; his niece, Jamie L. Petersen; and his nephew, John F. Petersen. He was preceded in death by his parents, Fredrick and Evora; his daughter, Deborah Marie Henry; and his brother, James Edward Petersen.

As we approach the holiday's Vern's memory will live on in the hearts of those who knew and loved him as this was his favorite time of year where he enjoyed being with family and friends and giving gifts.

A celebration of Vernon's life will be held at a later date.