



## Peter R. Lyman

August 25, 1926 - September 28, 2012

On September 28, 2012. Survived by his sister, Sonya Burgher; niece, Sophie Verlaine. A Memorial Service will be Saturday, October 20th, 10 AM at St. Paul's Episcopal Church. Private Interment at Oakwood Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to The Nature Conservancy, 4245 North Fairfax Dr., Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203 or to Friends of Animals, 777 Post Rd., Suite 205, Darien, CT 06820.

# Cemetery

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# Events

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**Oakwood Cemetery**

Penfield, NY, 14526

**OCT  
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**Service**

10:00AM

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St. Paul's Episcopal Church

25 Westminster Road, Rochester, NY, US, 14607

# Comments

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## “ "A MAN CALLED PETER"

We have so many fond and happy memories of Mr. Peter Lyman that it could almost fill a book. We had the luxury of knowing him up close and personal because of living in his carriage house for 9 years. The very first question he asked me was, "Do you like nature?" Not references and not employment; but a shared love and respect for ALL of GOD'S creatures ! I hope that many of you saw his proud license plate that read: "252 MORE", referring to acres of land in Penfield. He was always willing to share information and start very lively discussions about tennis, politics, protecting wildlife, the environment, welfare of children and health issues.

We greatly admired Peter for pushing past his advanced rheumatoid arthritis in many situations. We called him "The Energizer Bunny" and then I would make him laugh when I told him that I named a special bunny rabbit on his sprawling lawn after me. We fed and brushed his big furry cat "Chubb" when he traveled and he always took the time to pet and care about our cat "Miss Molly" too. Peter had a natural love and concern for all children and would talk to our visiting grandchildren with kindness and jokes. He loved going out to restaurants and frequently invited us to join him. Peter was so popular that he was greeted by his first name everywhere. With his truly caring and humble ways, he remembered important details about ALL of the servers lives and could converse in Russian and other foreign languages.

Peter valued cards and gifts so much from his friends and relatives that he NEVER disposed of them. It was commonplace to see red velvet Christmas bows on his doors in July and one could just feel the love. He dearly loved plants, trees and flowers with his gentle nature. One time when we were helping him donate old tennis rackets to a restaurant for nostalgic wall displays; we suggested he might use the close handicap parking. His response was, "Someone else might need it"

When we took him to tennis tournaments it was truly touching to watch younger tennis players that had never personally met him, but knew about the U of R tennis court in his name and came to shake his hand in praise. I had urged our dear friend Peter many times to write his autobiography and share his unique childhood experiences in Switzerland, France and England with his mother and sister. Now we all know that his life of service to UofR Tennis & Squash teams, his church, and countless humanitarian concerns was his LARGER THAN LIFE WELL LIVED !

i SHALL FOREVER CHERISH THE BRIGHTEST BLUE SPARKLE IN PETER'S EYES WHEN HE SPUN AROUND IN HIS WHEEL CHAIR ON HIS LAST VISIT FROM THE HOSPITAL TO BREATH IN THE FRESH COUNTRY AIR OF HIS BELOVED HOME.

We will be forever grateful to have known and loved "A Man named Peter". Rest in peace with no more suffering. Lovingly submitted with GOD'S greatest Blessings,

Laura & Tee Boyd



Laura Vincent-Boyd - October 17, 2012 at 08:34 AM

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“ Peter was the ultimate amateur tennis player. Self taught, he honed his considerable skill and determination to be the finest player he could.

He loved to play, even to the extent that he couldn't wait to practice some stroke he was unhappy with immediately after he had won another grueling five-set marathon. He loved to tease his opponent, letting him get ahead 2-love or 2-1, in a 5 set match. Then to the roar of the crowd, which inevitably increased as the hours went by, he went onto victory in the match. This pattern wasn't an exception, but the normal come back style of Peter's play. I can still see him smile as another victory was savored. Everyone loved Peter.

Playing against you in a match, if he knew you and your game, he would not embarrass you but beat you by a relatively close score enabling you to keep your hopes high throughout the match. However, if he didn't know you, he would win convincingly so you would remember it the next time you met.

In practice matches, he liked to help his opponent by playing “out” balls to keep the point going longer, primarily to help him maintain his exceptional conditioning. He enjoyed having the point end on his terms and you had better be ready to keep moving.

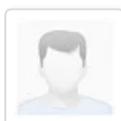
Peter will always be remembered by me not only as a fine tennis player but also as a first class gentleman and sportsman. He maintained his sense of humor in his final days. “Want to hit some, Sid?”

I will miss him.

Sid Braverman

Sid Braverman - October 07, 2012 at 05:33 PM

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“ I didn't meet Peter until the 1980s when I started to direct tournaments for the Rochester Squash Racquets Association. Peter was well past his playing years and the arthritis made it difficult for him to walk much less climb to the gallery of the various squash courts where I could usually find him if one of his players was

entered in the tournament. Along with his coaching, Peter handled the entry and transportation for all his players whether they were a serious competitor for the city championship or a beginner in the lowest ranked tournament. Peter's dedication to his team and his sport was without limits. When the local squash association honored me with the Peter Lyman Sportsman Award it was both my proudest and most humble moment during my many years connected with the sport. Peter was always a champion.

Denis Gordinier - October 07, 2012 at 07:56 AM

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“ In the early 60s Peter ran tennis tournaments at the U of R during the summer. This was my first experience with competitive tennis and I didn't know anyone else my first time. Peter made us feel welcome and important. He also taught us to be good sports regardless of the outcome. I was so impressed by his caring nature that it influenced my later becoming a teacher myself for 35 years. I also became a tennis coach at the schools I taught at, and I tried to model myself after Peter. A few years ago at one of the districts tournaments at TCR, I ran into him. I told him who I was and how much he had influenced my life and also thanked him for all he did for youth tennis at that time. He was very humble about his own role, but was genuinely pleased that I had pursued a path into education and coaching. I never saw him again, but I was so glad I had that chance to say thank you in person. We can all strive to be as wonderful a person as Peter Lyman was. Thanks again for all you did.

Len Crellin  
Fairport, NY

Len Crellin - October 03, 2012 at 09:25 PM

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“ As a colleague and friend at the University of Rochester for many years, I marveled at Pete's ability and patience as a teacher of his sports. His dedication to the young men and women he coached and the countless hours of one-on-one instruction - - and volleying - - was legendary. He literally donated his expertise and concern for the individual student in his early years. Later, when he was on the faculty payroll, he went above and beyond. His love of tennis and squash inspired University teams to local, regional and national recognition. With all this Pete never looked for personal recognition. It was always all about his players. He is a member of the University's Hall of Fame. The University has lost a great teacher and humanitarian.

David Ocorr,  
Former coach and Athletics Director at UR



**David R. Ocorr** - October 03, 2012 at 10:41 AM



“ Words cannot express the gratitude that I feel for having been mentored by Peter! He took me under his wing in the late 50's and played tennis with me just about any time that I wished and he was Rochester Champion. I was just a kid wanting to learn the game.

There are so many memories of Peter, from the way he ordered lemonade to how he would hit the ball right at you when your were warming up at the net so that you would learn how to deal with balls close to you. I also remembered how he would play those 5 set City Championship matches, often losing the first 2 sets, but never being deterred from the goal at the end...winning in 5 once again!

Like many who were mentored by Peter, I eventually went into coaching and teaching. I just retired after coaching tennis for 30 years (10 years squash) at Dartmouth College. Occasionally, I would run into Peter at a tournament, a clinic or at a conference. He was always the guy asking questions, wanting to learn more! Despite his tremendous battle with arthritis, he was never deterred from working hard for his players. I am jealous of you guys that had the opportunity to play for him at the U of R. He was the best!

I have not seen Peter in several years and feel envious of those who have been able to stay close to him over the years. He will always be in my heart, because he showed me the right way!

Loved You Pete!

Chuck Kinyon

**Chuck Kinyon** - October 05, 2012 at 02:05 PM