



## Thomas Lindsay Peters

October 15, 1951 - September 5, 2020

After valiantly fighting several health issues, Tom Lindsay Peters of Laguna Beach, CA, passed away Saturday, September 5, 2020. Born in 1951 in Sac City, Iowa, Tom was raised primarily in Palos Verdes, CA. He attended UC/Santa Barbara graduating in 1973 with one of the first degrees granted in environmental planning and began a lifelong career at the consulting engineering firm of CH2M HILL in their Portland, Oregon office. In 1993, Tom transferred to Orange County where he met his wife, Joy. They married in 1997 and have resided in Laguna Beach since then. He ended his professional career as Senior Vice President in charge of the Western Region. He was an inspiration to those he worked with and mentored largely because his visionary leadership was tempered with compassion, laughter and integrity.

While living in Portland, when still a young man, Tom developed renal failure and when his first transplant failed, he served on a committee that helped reform national organ transplant policy. After ten years on dialysis, Tom received a new kidney, fondly named Sidney, which lasted an incredible 30 years, well beyond expectation.

Tom was known for his optimistic outlook, calm demeanor, and a warm and humorous presence. He credited his serene disposition to his 47-year meditation practice. He inspired others to live life to the fullest. Aware that he was on 'borrowed time' and being an intrepid traveler, Tom retired at 56 to pursue this passion. He visited all 50 states, SCUBA dived around the world with Joy, and visited over 40 countries. One of his most adventurous trips was to the Grand Kumbh Mela in India, sleeping in tents with naked yogis and was one of 22,000,000 who took a purification dip in the Ganges River. He fished every summer in Alaska with his brother and Joy, zip-lined at the Arenal Volcano on one of his many trips to Costa Rica, and raced above the clouds in a beat up rental car in the Ecuadorean Andes. More recently, though his health was declining, Tom climbed to the top of the highest temple in Angkor Wat and hiked out to the Iguazu Falls viewing platforms in Argentina and Brazil.

Tom and Joy have been major supporters to many Laguna Beach arts programs and charities, notably Laguna Dance Festival, Laguna Beach Seniors and Friendship Shelter.

Tom lit up a room with his exuberance and welcoming smile. He was generous in every aspect of his being and deeply loved by all who knew him. He is survived by his wife, Joy Dittberner, siblings Dr. Susan Peters, Steve Peters and Deborah Pronk along with seven nieces and nephews.

Due to COVID and the risk of gathering, there is no service planned at this time. Gifts may be made in Tom's name to the environmental studies program at UC Santa Barbara, a program he helped shape. He passionately believed that training future environmentalists is vital to the survival of our planet.

If you wish to make a contribution make checks payable to the UC Regents and mail to:

Bren School, Office of Development

2400 Bren Hall

University of California, Santa Barbara

Santa Barbara, CA 93106-5131

# Comments

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“ I was deeply saddened, but not surprised at hearing of Tommy's passing. I guess we all knew that he was on borrowed time, and thus he lived to 'carpe diem'. I went to PVHS with Tom, he lived up the block from me in PVP and we were close friends, I be so bold as to say like brothers. His mom and dad were like second parents to me, his dad always hitting me up with "read any good books lately, Keith" when I went over to the house.

Tommy lit up every person and situation he was involved in with his infectious laugh and positive outlook on life. We were all invincible as teens, but I'm sure Tommy lived with his mortality every day, he chose to always show his best side and that is why everyone he came in contact with, was left a better person.

I remember when he got his first bike, a BSA Victor 440, yellow. We spent many hours riding our bikes around the South Bay area and shared a love of motorcycles. Alas, I returned to Canada in 1970 and had sporadic contact with Tommy thereafter. But he never left that part of me that truly admired and loved him. He has now 'astrotravelled' to a place where he is perfect in body, his mind was already there.....love you Tommy and the very best to you Joy in knowing how much your guy was loved.

**Keith Diller** - October 31, 2020 at 07:03 PM