



## Peter Hanson

October 9, 1935 - September 28, 2010

Dr. Peter Hanson died September 28, 2010 in Lac du Flambeau, WI after a long struggle with prostate cancer. He was professor of Medicine-Emeritus at the University of Wisconsin School of Medicine and Public Health.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Goldie Buckskin Larson of Lac du Flambeau; daughters, Karoline Collins, Elizabeth and Helen Hanson; step daughter Nicole Larson, brother, Fritz of Seattle; sister, Bela Bigley of Vienna, VA; nephews, Todd of San Francisco, Brock of Seattle; nieces Gretchen and Alex of Madison and Lisa of New York and grandchildren, Julian and Nakai.

Peter was born in 1935 to parents Maurice and Elizabeth. He attended Lapham Grade School, Wisconsin High School '54 and the University of Wisconsin- BS Zoology class of '58.

He had an early interest in wildlife biology and during high school he worked at the Poynette Game Farm and the Horicon National Refuge. As a University student he spent four summers working as a waterfowl biologist with Ducks Unlimited at Lake Winnipegosis, Manitoba, Canada.

During his time in Manitoba he was privileged to acquire a working knowledge of the Ojibwe Language, which he continued to study and speak during his retirement years in Lac du Flambeau and other Ojibwe speaking communities.

In 1958, he entered the US Air Force Medical Service Corps for an extended period of 9 years as physiologist and survival training officer. During this time he completed a Master of Science Degree in Exercise Physiology at the University of Illinois -Champaign.

Following active military service in 1967, he was accepted into the University of New Mexico Medical School in Albuquerque, graduating with honors in 1971. He then completed residency training in Internal Medicine and a research fellowship in Cardiovascular Physiology at the University of California – San Francisco.

Dr. Hanson returned to Madison in 1975 when he joined the School of Medicine Faculty in the section of Cardiovascular Medicine. His primary interest was the prevention of cardiovascular disease. He developed one of the first preventive cardiology programs in the country and he and his staff conducted many important research studies on the effects of exercise training in patients with cardiovascular disease. He was also extensively involved in the teaching of medical students, graduate students, residents and cardiology fellows. He received three teaching awards, including the 1993 Medical School Dean's Teaching Award.

After retirement in 2000, he continued to serve as a consultant in cardiovascular disease and diabetes prevention for the Great Lakes Intertribal Council and Peter Christianson Tribal Health Center in Lac du Flambeau.

Retirement also allowed Peter to fulfill a lifelong dream of designing and maintaining a year-round cabin in the forests of Northern Vilas County, which he used as a base for many outdoor activities including: canoeing, backpacking, fishing, snow shoeing, gathering wild berries, wild rice and maple syrup and the making of Native woodland crafts.

During this time he met and married his life partner and respected Lac du Flambeau Tribal Elder, Goldie Buckskin Larson.

Miigwech (Thanks) to all of Peter's friends in Madison, especially the Madison Hash House Harriers, his colleagues in the Medical School and University community and his friends in the Lac du Flambeau Ojibewe Tribe and Three Fires Society.

Traditional Ceremony will be held on Friday, October 1, 2010 at the Lac du Flambeau Multi-Purpose Building, with a Feast at 4:00 PM followed by a prayer service, traveling song and military rites.

Dr. Hanson's family sponsors a Medical School Student Scholarship Program. Donations may be made through the University of Wisconsin Foundation.

"There is no death, only a change of worlds." – Chief Seattle, Suquamish Nation

# Tribute Wall

VS

“ Peter was my teacher and mentor in graduate school in Madison. I took MS in cardiac rehab with him in Madison and graduated in 1985. He was truly an inspiration and a great teacher. I remember him with great affection and admiration. Bless his memory.

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**Valgerdur Gunnarsdottir Schram** - May 24, 2020 at 09:43 AM

PM

“ Peter was mentor to many of us. He was extraordinarily generous with me, identifying potential in me at the beginning of my career, and mentoring me until he retired. I would not be where I am today with Peter, and I will never forget his support and his incredible vision and intelligence. He was a very dedicated and detailed physician, setting a great example for us. He was a brilliant teacher, and I still use much of what I learned from him in my teaching. And he was a lot of fun! We have great memories of Peter funny faces, funny stories, and great times at the Union Terrace - which he loved. He is very generous and started a scholarship that helps older medical students with financial need, much like his time in medical school. He loved his daughters dearly and talked of them whenever we talked. His death leaves a big hole for all of us in Preventive Cardiology.

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**Patrick E. McBride** - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM

LB

“ *My Uncle Peter was one of the most interesting people I have ever met. I'll never forget when he visited our family in San Diego when I was around 8 or 9. Peter was in the Air Force at the time and had a certain dashing air -- a slim, tall, intelligent man, who, in the eyes of a young girl, was worldly and sophisticated. He allowed me to show him my thoroughly undistinguished rock collection and seemed interested in every speck and grain. He was like that -- interested in everything and in everybody.*

*Peter was mother's younger brother, with Fritz slotted inbetween. Peter and Fritz had a special relationship as brothers, Moose's sons, and avid outdoorsmen. and Peter had a special bond with my mother Bela, who protected Peter as a slim, quiet, studious boy seven years her junior. Who can ever forget the story of the time my mother beat up the local neighborhood bully who tried to pick on Peter? Peter certainly wouldn't let anyone forget it and retold the details over and over (especially the part about Bela making the bully eat dirt). Peter's love for all of us stays with us now that he's gone. Truly, as they say, this is just a passing and Peter's kind and generous spirit will live on.*

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**Lisa Block** - March 22, 2013 at 11:54 AM