

Robert Petersen, Sr., 89

Dec. 1, 1921 - Nov. 18, 2011

PLANTATION, FL — Robert

Eugene Petersen, better known as "Bob", was born on December 1, 1921 in Shelby County, to a family of Danish farmers who had migrated to America a generation earlier. His parents, Luella and Harry, raised three children on the farm and were active in the Harlan community and the Bethel Baptist Church. Bob would leave the farm early and go off to play professional baseball as he was a very gifted left-handed pitcher. In 1941, he was signed by the St. Louis Browns to begin in the minor leagues. Bob Feller had high praises for this rising star saying "he is typical of the rich soil he



was raised on." Bob continued in baseball, but WWII began and Bob joined the Air Force in 1942. He served as a physical trainer for flight school and continued playing amateur baseball in his spare time.

Bob met his future wife, Fay, at a ball park while stationed in Denver, CO. They were married three months later beginning a life of love and devotion which thrived for 60 years. Bob and Fay eventually moved to Omaha, NE where Bob began a successful business career with Hobart Food Machines. They were devoted to their three children, Karen, Bob Jr. and Kristine. Family time was always a priority for Bob. After many family vacations to the Floridian coastlines, Bob's dream of a new life in a warm climate became a reality. Even though they had to leave behind relatives and friends, the Petersen family moved to Fort Lauderdale, FL in the summer of 1965. Bob bought a boat building business and pursued his love for fishing and boating, both as a business and a hobby. Of course, a lot of golfing was also on the schedule. Family holidays were always special and Christmas was a favorite time of the year. The family would always come together on Christmas Eve and share in prayers and the Christmas story. Relatives and friends would visit from all over, and a Christmas vacation fishing trip was always in order. Bob will be forever remembered for his steadfast faith, his devotion to his family and friends, and his love for life and adventure. Bob died Nov. 18, 2011 at age 89.

Bob is survived by his sister, Bonnie (Don) Petersen, and brother, Richard (Lile) Petersen of Harlan; his children; six grandchildren; and one great granddaughter.

Memorial services were held Friday, December 9, 2011 at Plantation Baptist Church in Plantation, FL with Pastor Tom Hunter officiating. Burial was in Lauderdale Memorial Park in Ft. Lauderdale, FL with military honors.