



## Godfrey "Jeff" Anderson

July 26, 1918 - September 18, 2007

Godfrey "Jeff" Anderson, 89, of Venice, FL, widower of Ruth Peterson Anderson, a former longtime Berlin resident, died Tuesday September 18, 2007 in Columbus, Ohio. Born in New Britain, Jeff attended New Britain High School and graduated from Yale University in 1940. There he was active in the Yale Glee Club and often spoke of his adventures with the European Singing Tour he took with the Glee Club in 1939. This trip sparked his love for travel that he has passed on to his family. He often reminisced about the trip he took with his wife Ruth and their daughters in 1962, traveling through Europe for 8 weeks. Jeff considered himself fortunate to be able to travel back to Europe many times with both his family and friends. He especially loved his trips to Sweden, visiting with relatives and enjoyed his Swedish heritage. Upon graduating from Yale, Jeff worked at New Britain Machine Company where he ended his career in 1983 as Director of Factory Operations. After losing his wife Ruth in 1988, Jeff spent his winters in Venice, FL, a place he grew to love. He became a resident there when he married Fay and would spend his summers in both Ohio and Connecticut. He enjoyed gardening, investing in the stock market and especially singing with the Bay Indies Chorus in Venice. Jeff spoke often of his happy memories from his childhood and times spent with the family, his brother Bruce, as well as with his wife Ruth's family, the Petersons. As a young teenager he camped at Hammonasset State Park and later brought his family there to spend the summers. Later in life Jeff enjoyed his times in Columbus and appreciated the

love and support of his dear family there. Jeff was a lifelong member of First Lutheran Church of the Reformation in New Britain. Prior to moving to Florida, he served as deacon and was a member of the Church Council for many years. Jeff will be best remembered for his love and loyalty to his family and friends. His enthusiasm for life was contagious and he has left his family with precious memories of our wonderful time with him.

Jeff is survived by his wife, Fay Anderson; two daughters Karen McConnell and her partner Allen Nielsen of Glastonbury; and Janice Smyth and her husband Gerard of Granby; grandchildren, Lindsey Salomonsson and her husband Stephen of West Hartford; Thomas Hall and his wife Abby of West Hartford; and Erin Kahler and her husband Chad of Amherst, NY; Missey Grandinetti and her husband Jerid; and Gregg Smyth. Stepchildren, David Karn and his wife Patsy and their son Casey; Robert Karn and his wife Carla and their children Ben and Madi; and Marcile Lattimer and her husband Gary and their children Caitlyn and John. Jeff also leaves many dear nieces and nephews, especially Linda Reamer, who was like a daughter to him. Besides his first wife Ruth P. Anderson, he was predeceased by a brother, Bruce Anderson.

Funeral services are Monday 10 AM at First Lutheran Church, 77 Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051. Burial will follow in Maple Cemetery, Berlin. There are no calling hours. Memorial donations may be made to the First Lutheran Church Memorial Fund. Carlson Funeral Home, New Britain is assisting the family with arrangements. Please share a memory or note of sympathy by clicking on "GUESTBOOK" at the bottom of this page.

# Tribute Wall

CF

“ Uncle Jeff was just that person you wish would/could live on forever and ever. He gave his family, his friends and strangers positive energy; joyous communication that was also thoughtful and kind. He gave from his inner being to others which reflected back to himself. Jeff was just that person one says about, "If only the world was like him, we would have a better place.....the best." Now he leaves that legacy to us, his family, his friends and others that may have been fortunate enough to meet him along his path. We celebrate his life and send our deepest sympathies and love to Fay, Karen, Allen, Erin; Jannie, Gerry, Lindsey and T.J.; Linda, Ernie; Jeff, Chris and Carolyn and their families.  
Lovingly,  
Carole and Richard

---

**Carole and Richard Fowler** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SH

“ Dear Fay and Family, I was lucky to share some good times when Dottie and I came to visit in Florida. The music concerts and the hamburger picnics and of course The super Bowl celebrations. It was an honor to be able to sing at the funeral. He will be missed but he is in a very wonderful place with so many others that we love. God Bless you all. Sylvia

---

**sylvia herberts** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

SA

“ to the anderson family,  
our thoughts and prayers are with you and yours at this difficult time

---

**sue and steve alessi** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

JE

“ Our memories of Jeff date back to our early days of marriage and our life at First Lutheran Church. We remember the time spent with first Jeff and Ruth and then with Jeff and Fay. Actually Fay, I was thinking of you and Jeff earlier this week as I looked at and changed the perpetual calendar you and Jeff gave us over 10 years ago. We will never forget Jeff who was a wonderful man of integrity. Fay, Karen and Jannie - please accept our sincere sympathy on your loss.

---

**Jim and Marti Eddy** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

RS

“ We would all like to say how much we enjoyed getting to know Jeff and having him as part of our family, if only for a brief time. He was always thoughtful and never left a gathering without a kind word for everyone. We will truly miss him.

---

**Ron, Diann, RJ and Maridith Smith** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

KM

“ Our sympathies on your loss-

*Kevin & Tami Michael*

---

**Kevin & Tami Michael** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

CP

“ I have fond memories of my favorite Uncle, Jeff, dating back to when his parents lived across the street from us on Stanley Street in New Brirain.

*Always upbeat, always a smile, he made everyone feel special.*

*We especially remember the trip Jeff, Ruth, Janie and Karen made to Europe in 1962. Jeanette and I were living in Mannheim Germany at the time, serving in the US military. We had a wonderful time providing a home base for them in Germany, home cooked meals now and then, and assisting them in their purchase of a Volkswagon bus that they used to tour.*

*We have managed to keep in touch with Jeff through the years, by phone and letters, most recently in July of 2007. Even with health failing, he was optimistic, interested in others, and trusting in God. He was truly a good and faithful servant of The Lord.*

*We will miss him.*

*Jeanette and Cliff Peterson*

*Melbourne Beach, Florida*

---

**Cliff and Jeanette Peterson** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

MA

“ We got to know Jeff through Fay. Our daughter is married to Bob Karn. Jeff was a wonderful person and really enjoyed talking to Jay about old times and cars. We will truly miss him.

---

**Mr.&Mrs Jay Cribb and Amy** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

“ Dear Fay, Karen, Janice and families,  
Where do I begin to celebrate you dad and husband's life. What a great friend and mentor he was for me when I arrived bearly out of seminary to New Britain in 1985. Sarah and I moved in to a community where we knew few people and Jeff & Ruth adopted us like new members of their family. Jeff was the president of the congregation when I arrived and he was a constant friend and mentor through my years there. We worked hard together as partners in the Gospel at First Lutheran and we played hard on the tennis courts. I remember one time so fondly when Sarah and I were visiting my grandparents in Bradenton and we went down for "dinner" with Ruth and Jeff but not before lin my late 20's was run ragged by Jeff and 2 of his friends for an afternoon of tennis. It makes me smile just to think of it and the joy we had at connecting up away from home.

I'm sure that, as Jeff joins the Saints in Glory, much of the family is revisiting those hard days of Ruth's illness and death. You were a family to admire for this young pastor. You have been blessed with two outstanding parents and I am sure it is hard to say goodbye. One thing we had in common was that my mother had also died too young. I saw Jeff like my dad move through a time of mourning to be a little at loose ends. Happy with the gift of family but something big was missing.

When you came into his life Fay, I know that you brought the joy back into each other's lives. The two of you have been blessed to have so many wonderful years together. The times our paths have crossed over the years have always been filled with Jeff's strong handshake, hugs from both of you plus the laughter and joy that comes from people who are happy together.

I am sorry I can't be with you on Monday. I know Jeff's memorial service will be a celebration of a life well lived. Jeff was a man who lived out the old adage of Living well, Laughing often and Loving much.

I am now serving on the Bishop's staff. I can't tell you the number of times I have talked with newly ordained pastors who are going through a difficult time in the congregation and I would tell them to

*find someone like Jeff Anderson to lean on. A member of the congregation who is rock steady in faith and wise in the ways of organizations. When things blew up at First and I was asked to lead the congregation through the transition from one senior pastor to the arrival of Bill Moldwin - it was Jeff and some other wise souls who stepped up to guide me through a difficult time.*

*God blessed him with the rare ability to be tough, to be kind and to bring out the best in others.*

*I give thanks to God for Jeff Anderson and the many like him who God inspired to be leaders and ambassadors of Christ's grace to others.*

*God's peace and courage,  
Bill*

---

**Pastor Bill White** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BT

“ *We don't have words enough to tell you how sad we are to hear about uncle Jeff. We will remember him as a wonderful, spiritual, intelligent and very caring "uncle". We all want to share your grief. Our thoughts are with you and uncle Jeff will stay in our hearts for ever.*

*Your Swedish relatives in Kalmar and Stockholm Maja, Birgitta and George, Ulla-Britt and Rune, Christina, Kent and Marianne, Staffan and Ingrid*

---

**Birgitta and George Trolin** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

AC

“ *You are all in our prayers and thoughts. We have had many good times and have many good memories of our times together. God Bless you all He will be sorely missed.*

---

**Anna&Ralph Clayton** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

BH

“ Jeff, as I knew him, was one of those people everyone should have the pleasure of knowing. Our days at Hammonasset are some of the happiest memories I have and it was because of people like him. He was one of our family's favorite people. Karen and Jannie, I think of you often and know how much you and your family will miss him.

---

**Barbara Barske Hackett** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM

EK

“ I will always remember my grandfather as the person I hope to be. He loved his family, he enjoyed life to the fullest, he found pleasure in small moments and in my eyes and those of my two daughters he was larger than life. I will miss him.

---

**Erin Kahler** - September 20, 2016 at 12:00 AM