



## Timothy "Tim" L. Peter

July 2, 1946 - July 1, 2025

IN MEMORY OF:

Timothy "Tim" L. Peter

Serving Location:

CRAIN PLEASANT GROVE-MURDALE FUNERAL HOME

31 Memorial Drive, Murphysboro, Illinois

Timothy "Tim" L. Peter, age 78, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, July 1, 2025.

A devoted husband, father, Pawpaw, brother, uncle, friend, educator, and son, Tim lived an impactfully fulfilled life.

He was born July 2, 1946, in Logansport, Indiana to Marilyn (Leming) and Lewis Peter.

A 1964 graduate of Oakwood Township High School (Oakwood, IL) and then a lifelong Saluki, Tim graduated from Southern Illinois University Carbondale in 1970. He completed a Bachelor of Science (BS) degree in English. He was an avid SIU alumni supporter and season ticket holder of football and men's

basketball for many years.

Tim married Vicki (Henegar) Peter on August 17, 1984, in Buckley, IL. The yin-to-his-yang, they recently celebrated 40 years of marriage in 2024. Together, they have one daughter, Kaitlyn Peter Hamilton of St. Louis, MO.

Although some (including Tim) would say he never actually left high school...

For 33 years, Tim taught English, world literature, speech, debate, and creative writing at Murphysboro High School in Murphysboro, IL – to him, a career that gave back as much as he gave. He was once quoted stating: “Education can be incredibly dull, or it can be fun. We can make the choice between the two so long as we remember there is a choice. I try to season it with humor and imagination.”

Beloved, respected, and so many students’ “favorite teacher”, he repeatedly won Teacher of the Year and Teacher of the Decade awards and superlatives. He truly saw and loved kids for exactly who they were.

He directed plays, sponsored award-winning speech teams, served as various class sponsors, and worked at the score table for numerous sports. He was a leader and advocate for his present and future educators, serving as Representative to the State of Illinois Education Association, and Murphysboro Education Association (MEA) Union President, where he chaired the negotiations committee leading contract negotiations – always for the greater good of faculty and doing the right thing for students and public education.

Additionally, teaching afforded him summers to spend with his “greatest joy”, Kaitlyn. An abundance of memories made together for 22 summers. Every day was a new adventure, from lake days to hiking at Giant City State Park

(and not a single meal had at home).

Tim retired from teaching in 2003. Since retiring, Tim's activities and hobbies included substitute teaching, fishing, reading, bowling, traveling, exercising, and time with his loved ones and friends ("Nothing I don't want to do" he once said).

An intellect, humble, and generous, Tim will be missed for his story-telling and concise wisdom, for his imagination and soft heart: vying for good. The world was his stage. He had the gift of captivating both an audience and one's single attention with his words, expressions, and presence. A teacher through and through.

Tim is survived by his wife, Vicki Peter of Murphysboro, IL; daughter, Kaitlyn Peter Hamilton, son-in-law, Eric Hamilton, and granddaughter, Mina Hamilton of St. Louis, MO; sisters, Carla Kranz of Montgomery, IL, and Melodie Sue (Steve) Wood of Sadorus, IL; brother-in-law, Todd Henegar, and sister-in-law, Melody Henegar of Thomasboro, IL; many nieces, nephews, great-nieces, great-nephews, cousins and friends.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to a charity of your choice.

All are invited to honor his life and legacy at 17th Street Warehouse, 214 N. 17th Street in Murphysboro, IL on September 13, 2025, between 4-7PM (open house).

Crain Pleasant Grove-Murdale Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Previous Events

## Family Hosted Celebration of Life

SEP **13.** 4:00 PM - 7:00 PM (cst)

17th Street Warehouse  
214 N. 17th St.  
Murphysboro, IL 62966

# Tribute Wall



Michael  
Scott

“ *Speech team ! Readers Theatre! I remember Tim well as such an animated and captivating teacher. I was not a student...rather a teacher from Mt. Vernon. We were both coaching our respective speech teams. I have no doubt this man touched many , many lives! He touched mine!*

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**Michael Scott** - August 19, 2025 at 06:16 PM



LR

“ *I was fortunate enough to overlap years of teaching with Tim. His students respected him and loved his classes. After retiring, he became a substitute teacher always showing up at the end of the english wing at MHS passing periods smiling and waving at students and faculty. I loved that he wore a different tie each day of the school year with absolutely no repetition. He was well loved, and a respected faculty member and peer. I am very sad to hear of his passing.*

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**Lori Reed** - July 09, 2025 at 10:29 PM



KS

“ *Mr Peter was such a phenomenal teacher! I have such fond memories of him. He had such patience for us crazy kids! I know his legacy will live on.*

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**Kimberly Stoll-French** - July 09, 2025 at 09:10 PM

MB

“ I have such wonderful memories of Tim. He encouraged my writing. His comments and example were instrumental in me pursuing a career in writing. I still have papers and journals I wrote in his classes and treasure his comments. I also have a very funny hall pass he created.  
I remember the Speech team piling into the back of his blue van to go to Speech meets.  
RIP my teacher, my friend.

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**Mary Barringer** - July 09, 2025 at 07:39 PM

SH

“ I vividly remember one "banned word" from Mr. Peter's creative writing class: "thing." He expounded on "What is a thing?" It is also a word I address in my high school English class!

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**Steve Hopper** - July 09, 2025 at 10:39 AM

CH

“ I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr Peter. He was hands down one of my favorite teachers. He made learning fun, and I still quote him from time to time to my kids. He will be missed.  
Class of 96

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**Cindy McNeill Hansil** - July 09, 2025 at 10:37 AM

JL

“ In the cedar chest upstairs I still have a paper I wrote for Tim’s class in 1981 with his comments on it. Tim was one of the few adult sounding board for ideas that caused most of them to tell me I was too young to understand such things, or I just needed to get my butt to church. Tim listened; but he also blatantly laughed at me when I was being a pretentious teenager taking myself way too seriously. I’ve been teaching at the college level for 26 years, and two weeks have never gone by without me thinking about something that happened in his classroom.



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**Jay Larson** - July 09, 2025 at 06:50 AM

RP

“ I too am saddened by Tim’s passing. Here is my favorite story involving Tim. I was one of his students the first year he taught at MTHS. One day in class he announced that someone from the district office would be in our next class to evaluate him as a new teacher. He explained that one criteria would be class participation. So, he said he wanted everyone to raise his/her hand every time he asked a question. He then elaborated, that if you knew the answer to the question, you should raise your right hand. If you did NOT know the answer, raise your left hand. He promised to call upon only those who had raised his/her right hand. We all happily complied — the 20th century version of “sticking it to the man.” I like to think we deserve some credit for Tim’s wonderful career at MTHS.

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**Rick Pautler** - July 08, 2025 at 10:28 PM

JW

“ A phenomenal educator who taught with humor and wit and made us all love some pieces we never would have appreciated otherwise. I hope I’ve accomplished half as much with my students in my time teaching. (Class of 95)

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**Jamie Graeff Wright** - July 08, 2025 at 09:57 PM

MO

“ Oh Mr. Peter, how I will miss you. I cannot share just one memory of you, for I have enough to put into a book. I'll never forget the laughs with you, the in-depth conversations over yellow journalism and banned words and phrases, and our shared appreciation of classic obscure plays that no one else seemed to have heard of. I never got the chance to visit you after high school, my life took me to far away places. I wish I could have told you that thanks to you, I earned my first Bachelor's degree in English. Thanks for the encouragement, Mr. Peter. I'll never forget you. MeLissa (Morefield) Obermiller BA, BSW, MSW

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**MeLissa (Morefield) Obermiller** - July 08, 2025 at 09:43 PM

JF

“ I share as others have, of his great humor and love of telling stories. I graduated in 1985, and know I have spoken to so many over the years about how much I loved him as a teacher. The story of him, and his childhood friend who had the last name of Butt(s) (don't remember exactly), were the joke of many throughout their years as friends. People would say, "Oh look, there goes Peter and Butt(s)!" Never knew for sure if that was a true story, or just the fact that it was just a story that made his high school students laugh. 🤔

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**Julie (Schack) Fink** - July 08, 2025 at 06:44 PM

RW

“ One of my favorite high school teachers! Always funny and engaging! You could truly tell teaching was more than just a job to him, but a calling.  
May his memory be a blessing to his family and all who knew him.

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**Rebecca Wayman** - July 08, 2025 at 05:57 PM

JM

“ I had several classes with Mr Peter in the early '80s. He was one of the most memorable teachers I ever had and I believe his influence has always stayed with me. He always called me “Strack”- by my last name. He challenged me to think a little more unconventionally than I would have otherwise but never insisted I take his view. It was a case of mutual respect between us-something unique in a high school student-teacher relationship. Thank you Tim Peter. I'll never forget you.

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**Jennifer Van Meter** - July 08, 2025 at 01:33 PM



“ He was my favorite teacher, he was always real. He will be missed, prayers and positive thoughts for the family. We lost one of the good ones!

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**Lori Harper** - July 08, 2025 at 01:09 PM

LE

“ I had only one class with Mr. Peter, speech 1 and I was a senior. Had I known the fun and looking back, the learning, that I had I would've taken more of his classes. I gave a speech on banned books...completely against it. The next day he presented me with a button for my collection..."I read banned books". I don't know where it's gotten to some 40 years later, but I know that the man who gave it to me made an impact in my life. To his family, you have my deepest condolences!

Laura Ebersohl - July 08, 2025 at 12:31 PM

CP

One of my ALL TIME FAVORITE teachers. I took a class I knew I really didn't like the subject, but took it because I knew he'd make it fun, ... and that he did, Aced it!

Cindy Presley - July 08, 2025 at 02:53 PM

CF

“ One of my favorite faculty members to work with. Tim always had a smile on his face, a cool necktie and sports jacket. He told great stories. His students loved his classes and his humor. We need more great teachers like Tim.

Cindy Fager - July 08, 2025 at 12:16 PM

RP

“ He was one of the most creative people and taught his students to be creative. His humor, honesty and inquisive mind kept me wanting to learn more and he taught students the value of their own opinions and values. Prayers for family

Renie ellis presutti - July 08, 2025 at 10:51 AM