



Gordon William Petherick

DEC 24, 1928 - APR 30, 2018



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Gordon William Petherick, a philanthropist and entrepreneur, was an only child who came as an early Christmas present to his parents, a housewife and a Methodist minister, Gladys and William Petherick, on December 24th 1928, and continued to give his charity, love, friendship, loyalty, sincerity, and honesty to his family, friends, and his community all of his life until he passed on 4/30/2018. He is survived by his wife, Audrey Petherick, his daughter and son-in-law Susan and Jim Magnus, granddaughter Jamie and her husband, Rob, his grandson Chris and his wife, Alyssa, and his four great grandchildren, Mickey, Lainey Sue, Grady, and Brooke. He was preceded in death by his parents and his beloved son, Jimmy, who died in 1978. Gordon learned a mechanically compassionate work ethic that he was able to pass on to his family at an early age. He was born in Green Bay, Wisconsin, and lived in North Prairie, Burlington, and Watertown where he began selling the Saturday Evening Post at age 11. At age 13, he worked after school and Saturdays at Kreske Five and Ten cent store as a stock boy, and at age 15 he worked as a stock boy at A&P in Marinette. He also drove a laundry truck for Star Laundry at age 16. We are grateful that he continued this work ethic throughout his life, as it can be seen in his accomplishments, and we are thankful that he was able to share it with, and teach it to his family. He graduated high school in 1946 and enlisted in the army where he was stationed in Alaska. He served three years, and was discharged in 1948. He was a great patriot who loved America and greatly believed in God and this great nation. He contributed great charity to our soldiers and first responders, and remembered them in his prayers before meals and before bed. He was able to begin college where he attended and graduated from Michigan State University in 1952. He taught us to never stop learning and to continue to broaden our horizons through our entire lives. In 1949 he married his high school sweetheart, the beautiful, sweet, and ever-loving, Miss Audrey Marie Hammer to whom he was always a gentleman. This was



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his one and only marriage, as his wife Audrey was the only woman he ever loved. It was inspiring to see his eyes smile as the school boy wonder and charm sparkled in them while he told us a story about how they met, or a dance they went to, while we listened on the couch. He always reminded us how important Audrey was to his success, and how much he cherished her love, support, guidance and friendship. In 1953 they had a son named Jim, and in 1956 they had a daughter named Susie, both whom he loved very much. He was a gentle, loving, mentoring, and understanding father, grandfather, and great grandfather. His family was always his number one priority and he demonstrated by example how he wanted his family to live their lives. We strive to be like him in all we do. Upon graduating from college, Gordon started a small retail window business that paid the rent, but not much more, so he joined the Texaco Oil Company as a sales associate in 1954. In 1959, he bought a very small oil business with a partner in Plymouth, Wisconsin. Two and a half years later, he bought out his partner, and continued with his one truck operation delivering oil and gas to homes, farms, and businesses for thirty years. During that thirty year period, Gordon bought out thirty other oil companies and began a video distribution business that serviced the US and Canada with over 3,000 retail outlets. He taught us that while we ought to work hard, and hard work is rewarded, that we also ought to humbly thank God for the many blessings He bestows upon our family every day. Gordon served on the State Wholesale Advisory Board of Mobil Oil Corporation for two years and was elected to the Regional Board for two years. His next step was his election to the National Board where he served for one year. He was also very involved with his community. Some Sundays he taught Sunday school, and he even gave several sermons. He served as president of his Kiwanis Club for one year from 1968-1969 and he also started the Petherick Foundation, which aided disenfranchised locals and donated to international charities anonymously. One cause he and his wife Audrey were particularly active with was the search for a cure for Type One Diabetes. Gordon moved to Florida in 1988 after selling the oil business and built a home in Bonita Springs, where he invested in, and developed two self storage facilities and a retail shopping center with the help of his family. He belonged to the Pine Hills Country Club as well as the Bonita Bay Club and was an avid golfer,



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winning several tournaments through the years. Gordon enjoyed traveling as well. He flew around the world with his wife twice and took many smaller trips. In 1978 he bought a condominium on the beach in Grand Cayman where he spent many, many wonderful days with Audrey, and numerous vacations with his family. He had many wonderful friends in the Cayman Islands, Sweden, Wisconsin, Florida, and all over the United States. He was always grateful for the love and devotion his friends showed him. We are lucky to have had such a man to teach us, care for us, worry about us, spend time with us, and most of all love us. He will be with us always through his teachings, in our thoughts, and in our prayers. He is exceptionally loved and will be missed deeply, but never forgotten. If you would like to leave a note to the family, please go to www.fortmyersmemorial.com, click on recent obituaries, look for Gordon, click on guest book, and submit your message. The family will hold a private, family celebration of Gordon's life. In lieu of flowers or donations, we ask that you remember the brave men and women in our armed forces, as well as our courageous first responders, in your prayers, and we ask that you spend a moment, today specifically, to talk with God, and thank Him for the many blessings in your life.



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BC

Barry Chapman posted:

Sorry to hear of the passing of your Dad Gordon Ana Audrey came to see my wife and I some years ago now we were at Borehamwood then we talked about the time that we Joyces children liked it when Uncle Barney and Auntie Glady came to see us at Grandad Charlie's Farm we tried to contact Gordon some months ago to let him know of the passing of my mother Joyce his cousin in Ireland she died on the 2nd of November 2017 but we couldn't find him anywhere I think my sister jenny wrote a letter but didn't get any answer so we lost contact till now hope all are well there we will rember the visits we had and cherish them always

August 19 at 9:46 AM

KM

Kathy Mctigue posted:

Dear Familyl am so so sorry to hear about your Dad.. What an amazing man and family..Please know you are in our prayers..Love you allKathy and Ed

May 18 at 10:08 AM

UW

Ulric William Wall posted:

Please accept my heartfelt condolences on Gordie's passing on. In the late 1950's I was attending Lakeland College. A vet , married, two children, living in a house trailer on campus, earning \$1.00 an hour, part time. It was very cold. I didn't have enough money to pay Gordie for the 50 gallons of fuel oil he was about to deliver. I told him about my circumstances. He did not hesitate, filled my tank to the brim. He said "Don't worry about it, I'll keep your fuel full all winter. Pay me when as you can." Am 86 years old now. I remain very respectful and eternally grateful to Gordie.

May 17 at 10:38 AM

LG

Lori Gretz posted:

My deepest heartfelt condolences to you and your family. I was so sorry to hear of your Dad's passing, Susie. You are in my thoughts. Sending you lots of strength and love.

May 7 at 6:14 PM

HP

Hector Pequeno posted:

Deepest sympathy for your loss.

May 7 at 7:50 AM



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LK

Louis Buell Jr. Kohler, Wi posted:

My family was proud to be friends with Gordy and Audrey in the early 1960's with the John Lee family and the "Pappy Proehl" families I can't imagine a more well liked couple. Gordy was always about family and I remember him telling me years ago, I never see Louie without Mary for vice versa you are lucky they are your parents. Occasionally in the Summer we would see Gordy and Audrey at The Log Cabin in Howards Grove and he always had time to shake hands and ask how everyone was.

May 6 at 3:53 PM

JP

Jerry And Donna Picard posted:

We are so very sorry to hear of Gordon's passing. Even tho' we have not seen you for a long time we think of you and have many memories. From the days at church and neighbors (when we were on vacations) at Crystal Lake and spending time with the children. He was a great person to know as is your family. Our thoughts and hearts go out to all. Jerry and Donna Picard

May 6 at 9:51 AM

NT

Nancy Ubbelohde Theobald posted:

Sue, I am very sorry to hear of your dad's passing. I wish your mom, you and your family peace and now you will cherish his memories.

May 5 at 3:49 PM

AY

Arthur & Elie Yuan posted:

We are so sorry to learn of the passing of Gordon. Our thoughts and prayers to his family.

May 5 at 2:32 PM

DB

Darryl Barbe posted:

Dear Audrey, Gordon was one of the nicest people I encountered after moving to Bonita Bay Club. He made every day more enjoyable just being around him. We played lots of fun golf together and our Saturday game was the highlight of every week. I will remember Gordy as a wonderful golf partner and a memorable friend. Darryl Barbe

May 5 at 7:04 AM



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MB

Maryle Barbe posted:

Dear Audrey, We just saw about Gordon and were totally shocked. I know we haven't seen you since you left Bonita Bay but we do remember all the previous times with you both. We are so sorry for your loss and wish you all the best in your healing. Maryle and Darryl Barbe

May 5 at 6:56 AM

BL

Bill & Joanne Lammers posted:

We were saddened to learn of Gordon's passing. Our sympathy to Audrey and the family. We remember the many good times we had together. Bill will miss his periodic conversations with his good friend.

May 5 at 6:38 AM

BL

Bill & Joanne Lammers posted:

We were saddened to learn of the death of our good friend Gordon. Our sympathy to Audrey and the family. We have many good memories of our times together. Bill will miss his periodic conversations with his good friend.

May 5 at 6:29 AM

DI

Debbie Wallace, Physician Assistant, The Woodruff Institute posted:

I am so sorry to hear about the passing of Mr. Petherick. He was a patient of mine at the Woodruff Institute and, honestly, one of my favorite patients. I was always greeted with his charming smile and friendly banter. He never complained about anything; it was such an honor and pleasure to take care of him. My deepest condolences to his family and friends for the loss of a wonderful man. I will miss him terribly...

May 5 at 5:09 AM

KT

Kip Testwuide posted:

Dear Audrey, Jim, Susie and family, Please know that Julie and my thoughts and prayers are with all of you at this difficult time. Gordon was always a kind and happy gentleman with us. We know he loved and was very proud of all of you. Please accept our condolences and love. Kip, Julie, Emily, Molly and KC.

May 5 at 5:01 AM



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PB

Patty Billmann posted:

Sorry for your loss. Kenny and I always enjoyed the good times we shared.

May 5 at 4:04 AM

MA

Mary Ann posted:

What a beautiful memorial to an incredible man. With tears in my eyes, I send you all giant hugs & much love. I will be honoring him from California on Sunday.

May 4 at 8:34 AM

JE

James Egan posted:

That wonderful man will be missed!

May 4 at 8:23 AM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring Gordon by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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