



Jeffery Peterson

November 3, 2021

Jeffery E. Peterson, age 52, of Athens, Alabama passed away suddenly on November 3rd, 2021, at Huntsville Hospital. He was the loving husband of Paula Peterson, of Athens, to whom he had been happily married for 23 years.

A graduate of Tusculum University, Jeff served as a police officer in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and a deputy sheriff in Anderson County, Tennessee from 1989 to 1997. His love of public service led him to a career as an FBI Special Agent where, in 1997, he was assigned to criminal matters in the Detroit Division, and counterterrorism following the 9/11 terror attacks. He received the FBI Medal of Bravery for his actions during an armed standoff. He was later selected for the Attorney General's Protection Detail, serving Attorneys General Ashcroft and Gonzalez, until 2005 when he was promoted to coordinate the FBI's Civil Aviation, Maritime, and Rail Security programs in the Counterterrorism Division at FBI Headquarters.

Because of his skills and abilities, Jeff was transferred to the Critical Incident Response Group where he helped plan and manage the FBI's leadership of the WMD render safe response. In 2010, Jeff transferred to the FBI's Little Rock Division where he oversaw the execution of one of the largest operations in FBI history – Operation Delta Blues – for which he received the U.S. Attorney General's Award for Excellence.

In 2013, Mr. Peterson was selected as Chief of Staff to the Assistant Director of the Criminal Investigative Division at FBIHQ, serving as a key advisor to the Assistant Director. In 2014, he was appointed as Assistant Special Agent in Charge of the Nashville, Tennessee Resident Agency and led all FBI operations in Middle Tennessee until his promotion to the Senior Executive Service as the Chief of Staff for the Executive Assistant Director (EAD) of the Criminal, Cyber, Response, and Services Branch at FBIHQ in 2016, a role affording him a unique window into the highest levels of the FBI, U.S. Government, and international partners.

With his success in that role, Jeff was again promoted, to Special Agent in Charge of the FBI's Anchorage Field Office, overseeing all aspects of FBI operations and personnel in the state of Alaska and the Arctic region. Like he did in his prior roles, Jeff built on and expanded relationships, focusing efforts on the Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women program. The Alaska Federation of Natives bestowed upon him the honorary Chief's Necklace for his honesty and hard work for justice.

Jeff returned to FBI Headquarters in 2020 as the Deputy Assistant Director of the FBI's Strategic Realignment Project Management Office, principally overseeing the FBI's ongoing transition of thousands of FBI employees to the Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, Alabama. At the time of his death, he concluded his FBI career as the Senior Advisor to the FBI's Redstone Project, retiring in October for a private sector position. Within and outside of the FBI, he was known as an enabler and connector, making sure his associates could advance the mission by leveraging others in his network. Jeff was a skilled problem-solver who brought people together for shared successes and he was quick to give credit to others rather than seek it for himself.

Jeff was a man of great faith with a heart for volunteering. He loved serving

others. A member of the Asbury United Methodist Church in Madison, Alabama, he gave his time to the Heartland Golden Retriever Rescue Group and the Child Rescue/Reintegration Center in Sierra Leone. While in Alaska, Jeff worked with the homeless shelter and supported Covenant House efforts to lift up at-risk youth. He was a friend and mentor both inside and outside of the FBI, enthusiastically sharing stories, insights, lessons-learned, and his time and energy.

A man with many hobbies, Jeff was a Jeep lover and an avid photographer, posting amazing images from his travels on his social media feed. He enjoyed sports of all kinds, was a lifelong Detroit Tigers fan, loved the Nashville Predators and UT football. While living in Alaska, Jeff and Paula served as house parents for college baseball players from the lower 48 states playing in the Alaska League focused on transitioning into professional baseball.

Jeffery Peterson is survived by his loving wife Paula, and his sister Patricia Shanahan (Michael) of Kalamazoo, Michigan and sister Wendy Underly (Richard) of Marcellus, Michigan, sister-in-law Katherine Ballard (David) of Lebanon, Tennessee and sister-in-law Vickie Watson of Kingston, Tennessee. He is preceded in death by his parents Edwin and Marjorie Peterson of Portage, Michigan, and sister Nancy Rooze'e (Ronald). In addition, he is survived by nieces and nephews Kelly Genez, Sean Shanahan, Laura Wells-Rooze'e, Jason Rooze'e, Chad Underly, Nicole Underly, Cory Watson, Casey Watson, and Brady Ballard.

A visitation will be held at the Asbury Church, 980 Hughes Road, Madison, Alabama on Saturday, November 6, 2021, at 11:30, followed by a service at 1:00 pm.

Memorials/donations in lieu of flowers to:

Donate to support the families of fallen FBI Special Agents at FBI Agents Association at <https://fbiaa.org/ways-to-donate>

Heartland Golden Retriever Rescue Group at <https://greatnonprofits.org/org/heartland-golden-retriever-rescue>

Previous Events

Visitation

NOV 6. 11:30 AM - 12:50 PM (CT)

Asbury Church
980 Hughes Road
Madison, AL

Tribute Wall

SM

“ Think about you often, will miss you, RIP Brother.

SCM

S.C. Marrow - May 09, 2022 at 10:00 PM

MR

“ I first met Jeff when he worked with the Oak Ridge, Tn Police Department. I further had the priviledge of working with him at the Andersen County, Tn Sheriff's Office. Jeff was a friend and one of the most professional officers I have ever worked with. I remember when he was accepted by the FBI, and I knew he would excell with the agency, and he did not disappoint! There are no words to express my deep sadness at his passing. May God bless and comfort Paula as she endures the loss of her beloved husband and one of the finest human beings I have ever had the priviledge of calling my friend.

Mike Redmond - December 22, 2021 at 10:38 PM

BW

“ Had the honor of working around Jeff when he was stationed in Alaska. He was always looking out for his LEO partners and friends. He will be truly missed! All our prays and thoughts are with Paula and the family.

Col Barry Wilson (ret)
Alaska Stare Troopers

barry wilson - November 14, 2021 at 01:36 AM

CH

“ Jeff and I graduated from the FBI Academy together. I am so shocked to hear of his passing. He was such a great guy and it always seems for some reason the really good ones go way too soon. I pray for your family and know you are in a better place. May you rest in peace while your friends know you made this world a better place to live and you truly made a difference. RIP my Brother.
Chuck Harper, FBI, Retired

Chuck Harper - November 12, 2021 at 12:53 AM

NM

“ Jeff was my supervisor and friend. He was there for me when I needed support; he was selfless, kind and caring. I have shed tears over his passing and will miss his warm hearted and genuinely fun character. Rest In Peace my friend, I smwill always cherish the fond memories of our time spent together.

Nick Mimikopoulos - November 09, 2021 at 04:06 PM

DS

“ In December of 2018, I was on my way to work in the early morning hours here in Fairbanks, Alaska. As I can around a corner, the stars did not align in my favor and I ended up flipping my G-Ride twice as I rolled down an embankment. Whilst laying in the ER, my phone rang. It was Jeff. After asking if I was alright, his immediate comment was, "This is why we can't have nice things." I laughed so hard it hurt. He was a funny guy and I truly enjoyed working for him.

Godspeed, boss. We've got the watch from here.

*Derik Stone
Fairbanks, Alaska*

Derik Stone - November 08, 2021 at 11:36 AM

JM

“ Jeff was the SAC in Anchorage where I was in the process of transitioning from support to agent. He was so incredibly supportive in my journey and sat down with me prior to my departure for the Academy. He gave me genuine advice and then handed me the handcuff key he carried during his time as an agent. The tag attached reads Isaiah 54:17. I carry this with me every day, and have since he handed it to me. I will always remember Jeff as a wonderful person, and someone I aspire to be like. I send my prayers and thoughts to Jeff's wife and family.

Jessi McDonald

Jessi McDonald - November 08, 2021 at 09:31 AM

GE

Jeff was my boss and friend. I am so sorry Paula for your loss.

GALL ELIZABETH - November 10, 2021 at 06:26 PM

TJ

Jeff was the SAC in Alaska when I had the pleasure of meeting him. I'm very sorry to hear of his passing at such a young age. Love and prayers to his family. He was one of my favorite people.

Troy Johnson - November 14, 2021 at 01:52 PM

JC

“ Jeff and I worked together in the Civil Aviation Security Program (CASP) at FBIHQ. It was a great team and he was an outstanding leader. That guy could write! Such an amazing person.

Joe Coniglione - November 07, 2021 at 04:39 PM

RB

“ Several years ago Jeff and I were assigned to the violent crime task force in Detroit. I was a TFO with DPD and he was a relatively new agent. We all went out after work and had a couple of cocktails. I got a call that my fugitive was caught out of state and had to go back to the office to take care of some communications. He said he would come with me. I guess his thinking was two guys that had a few cocktails would do a better job than one guy with cocktails. He might have been right. Anyway, I always remembered and appreciated his concern and "watching out" for a partner. It was a different time and Jeff showed himself to be a great cop, a great team player, and probably most importantly a great friend to all of us on the the task force. It doesnt surprise me his future with the BU was so successful. Rest in peace Hawkeye.

Pirate

robert bulgarelli - November 06, 2021 at 04:55 PM

CP

“ I met Jeff in Nashville and started admiring him during my 8 year tenure w the Governor Bill Haslam administration. He was particularly close w our THP Colonel, Tracy Trott, and his Command Staff.

I've been in his Nashville office several times while attending JTTF briefs. He loved the FBI and his law enforcement colleagues.

Good cop, great family man, dependable friend; rest in peace, Jeff, you've left us way too early while leaving your mark on this world...

David W. Purkey (Ret.)

-Governor's Homeland Security Advisor

-Commissioner of Safety & Homeland Security

-Hamblen County Mayor

COM David W. Purkey - November 06, 2021 at 02:22 PM

BJ

“ I worked with Jeff on transportation matters in the Counterterrorism Division. He was a good guy and always super great to work with!



Prayers and condolences to the Peterson family.

Brenda L. Jones

Brenda Lee Jones - November 06, 2021 at 01:47 PM

DG

So sorry about your loss... have wondered about you all..my prayers are with you If back in Lebanon, please get in touch 🙏🙏🙏

Dell Gibson - November 08, 2021 at 01:47 PM

LM

“ Met Jeff when he was attending Northern Michigan K9 in the early 2000's. Remembering Jeff as a very outgoing down to earth person. I remember a funny story, Freshly graduated from the K9 training program we returned home and started working the same day and called our master trainer to let him know we had success although a very small amount of narcotics only to be told that Jeff also called, and his K9 detected many pounds of narcotics. Sheepishly hung up the phone saying well done Jeff. He also graciously took the photos of my K9 for our Departments K9 trading cards. Always helpful and a down to earth genuine guy. Think of him often and will miss him. He touched many lives.



Luce County Sheriff Dept, Michigan - November 06, 2021 at 10:04 AM

DB

“ Jeff was the consummate friend, one who I counted on for advice and genuine trust. I remember one time running into him at Costco and he took the time to have a meaningful friend to friend conversation. He always showed care and concern for our well-being (my family and I). During my many tours at FBIHQ, he always made time to stop in or have me come by for a chat. I'll miss him. Rest in peace my brother.

David Brassanini - November 06, 2021 at 04:28 AM

EI

I had the pleasure of meeting Jeff 24 years ago when we went through the FBI academy together. Our professional paths crossed many times throughout the years, and I always admired his natural leadership abilities and his down-to-earth personality. You will be missed. RIP

Elena Iatarola - November 09, 2021 at 08:00 PM

RT

“ When Jeff started in Law Enforcement at the Oak Ridge, TN Police Dept., I was one of his training officers. He matured quickly into an outstanding police officer and it came as no surprise to me when he progressed into numerous supervisory assignments with the FBI. Good cops and outstanding men like Jeff are a rarity in this world.

Randy Tedford - November 05, 2021 at 11:13 PM

PT

“ Jeff and I were good friends at New Agent Training at Quantico. TC, Ted, Jeff, and myself were the 4 amigos. Always could make you laugh and always there to help. We crossed paths over our FBI careers and always enjoyed reminiscing and making each other laugh. He will be missed. Rest In Peace Brother.



Patrick Turner - November 05, 2021 at 09:58 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Jeffery Peterson.



November 05, 2021 at 09:20 PM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Jeffery Peterson.



November 05, 2021 at 08:28 PM



“ *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Jeffery Peterson.*



November 05, 2021 at 08:14 PM



“ *Worked with Jeff several years great Officer and great friend prayers for the family*

Ronnie Braden - November 05, 2021 at 05:58 PM



“ *Jeff was always about the people. Jeff and Paula arrived in Alaska right before the big earthquake of 2018. Not long after that unforgettable day, Jeff would come and sit on the couch by my desk and talk about what he could do to help keep the morale up in the office. After many conversations (I think he just liked sitting on the couch and being out of his office) we came up with the idea to have a cornhole competition. It was such a fun day and just what the office needed. He was always searching for ideas to make sure the people that worked for him were happy and taken care of. From then on, he would just come by and we would have lengthy conversations about Star Wars. May the Force be with you my friend.*

Sandi Klein - November 05, 2021 at 05:37 PM

AJ

“ *In meeting and knowing Jeff at the start of his journey in law enforcement. It was certainly easy to see that he was going to excel in whatever direction he chose to follow. As we know now he went above and beyond in what was expected of him. His integrity was outstanding as well as his heartfelt humor. I can't say enough good about this man, he will be missed. May God's hands surrounded his family during this time and comfort them. Thank you Lord for allowing me to know this man.*

Avery Johnson

Avery Johnson - November 05, 2021 at 05:27 PM