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Michael Petersen, 58

March 31, 1944 - Nov. 2, 2002

SOLO – Michael J. Petersen was born March 31, 1944, at Ottumwa, son of Forrest and Dorothy Johansen Petersen. He began his education in Harlan, where he graduated from high school in 1962. He then attended the University of Iowa and received his Bachelor's degree in political science in 1966. That same year he entered the United States Air Force, where it was discovered that he had Hodgkin's Disease. He then worked for a year at IBM in Omaha, NE.

June 9, 1968, he married Nancy Slater at Olin. Michael then began work on his Masters degree in American history, which he received in 1972, from the University of Iowa. In 1974, the couple moved to Cambridge, England. In 1976, they moved to Hopewell, NJ, where they lived for 21 years. In 1997, they moved to Olin and in 1998 they moved to Solon. For 10 years, he was a board member of the Cat Fanciers Association and served as a judge for that association for 15 years. He and Nancy have bred and shown national winning Persian cats for over 25 years. He died Nov. 2, 2002, at St. Luke's Hospital in Cedar Rapids, following a long illness.

He was preceded in death by his father-in-law, Jay Slater. He is survived by his wife, Nancy, of Solon; his parents, Forrest and Dorothy Petersen of Harlan; one brother, Stephen Petersen (Carrie) of Ames; his mother-in-law, Rosemary Slater of Olin; one sister-in-law; two brothers-in-law and 10 nieces and nephews.

Following cremation, memorial services were held Nov. 6, 2002, at the Olin United Methodist Church in Olin. Arrangements by Hayden Cremation Service in Olin.