



## Peter Edwin La Roche

May 20, 1950 - May 23, 2024

Dr. Peter Edwin La Roche, 74, of Centreville, Virginia, passed away peacefully on May 23, 2024, at his home with his wife Mary by his side after a long battle with cancer. Born on May 20, 1950, in Auckland, New Zealand, he was the beloved son of the late Trevor La Roche and Ethel Holden La Roche.

Peter is survived by his devoted wife of 46 years, Mary La Roche; his daughters, Charlotte Fitzsimmons (husband Patrick Fitzsimmons, Jr.) and Alicia La Roche (husband Aaron Braun); his sister, Diane Cantwell; and his four cherished grandchildren, Kayden and Emmy Fitzsimmons, and Ryker and Cora Braun. He was a loving husband, father, brother, and grandfather who will be deeply missed by all who knew him.

Peter had many passions in life but most of all his unwavering love for his wife, family and friends burned the brightest. Mary and Peter were loving companions for 50 years, meeting in 1974 at Cornell University. Their early years took them on many adventures from a honeymoon hiking through Glacier Park to a three month trip throughout Europe. They moved from Wellington, New Zealand to Madison, WI, where their two daughters were born. Hiking and skiing became shared family interests along with regular trips to visit family in Minnesota, New Zealand and Australia. As his daughters

grew, Peter enthusiastically supported their studies, athletics and interests.

Peter had a lifelong love of learning and was an avid reader of history and philosophy from a young age. As an adult Peter's academic journey began at the University of Auckland, where he earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in mathematics. As a Fulbright Scholar, he continued his studies at Cornell University, specializing in recursion and model theory. In 1978, Peter earned his Ph.D. from Cornell, with his groundbreaking doctoral research looking at the computability of classical mathematics and his thesis specifically focused on Galois Theory. It remains influential today due to its applications to computer science.

Peter held senior management consulting positions at Kraft in Madison, WI and Arthur D. Little and Decision/Analysis Partners in Washington, D.C. He applied his experience in operations improvement, manufacturing strategy and logistics to help transform major corporations & organizations, including the U.S. Coast Guard and Postal Service.

In retirement he enjoyed winery outings with friends, European travel with Mary and used his interest and skills in computer technology and home improvement to create a state-of-the-art home theater.

Peter had a passion for music and socializing, which often went together. He can be remembered bursting into song at any moment, reliving his childhood days singing in the choir and taking the lead in school musicals. Peter brought joy and laughter to those around him. He was a masterful storyteller. With a wine in hand, he was always ready to tell a joke or story.

Peter's legacy of love, intellect, and humor will continue to live on in the hearts of those who knew him. He will be dearly missed.

A memorial service to honor Peter's life will be held at Pierce Funeral Home. Visitation begins at 12:30pm on July 18th, followed by a memorial service at 1:30pm. A celebration of life reception will be held directly after in the Barrel Room at The Winery at Bull Run, 15950 Lee Highway, VA.

In remembrance of Peter, the family asks that any charitable donations be made to the American Association for Cancer Research.

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUL 18. 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

## Memorial Service

JUL 18. 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM (ET)

Pierce Funeral Home  
9609 Center St.  
Manassas, VA 20110  
(703) 257-6028  
pfh@piercefh.com  
<https://www.piercefh.com>

# Tribute Wall

LY

“ Lynda purchased the *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* for the family of Peter Edwin La Roche.



Lynda - July 17, 2024 at 08:14 AM

DF

“ Diane, Melissa & Stephen and Family purchased the *Love's Journey* for the family of Peter Edwin La Roche.



Diane, Melissa & Stephen and Family - July 15, 2024 at 12:55 AM

JC

“ Jim, Joan and Bob, Mike and Chris purchased the *Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum* for the family of Peter Edwin La Roche.



Jim, Joan and Bob, Mike and Chris - July 13, 2024 at 02:13 PM

MA

“ *Mary purchased the Sunset Wreath for the family of Peter Edwin La Roche.*



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**Mary** - July 13, 2024 at 02:10 PM

CA

“ *Charlotte A. purchased the Sweet Remembrance Spray for the family of Peter Edwin La Roche.*



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**Charlotte A.** - July 13, 2024 at 02:06 PM

LF

“ *Lane & Dawn Brown and family purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Peter Edwin La Roche.*



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**Lane & Dawn Brown and family** - July 12, 2024 at 06:41 PM

WH

“ Dear Mary, Charlotte, Alicia and family.  
Peter is an unforgettable man to me. As a fellow business consultant with d/a partners, I first worked with Peter in Honduras years ago. He was intelligent, wise, humorous and---most of all--- had a "team above self" ethos and true ethical compass. 'So brilliant, yet so humble and mission-focused as a colleague. My life is richer having had the chance to spend time with Peter while we were both away from our families for weeks at a time. He adored and admired each of you, but I'm sure you know that.  
'Bless you all, Wayne Henderson

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**Wayne Henderson** - July 12, 2024 at 02:31 PM

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“ Peter's memory lives on at the US Coast Guard where his vision of supply chain management grew into a full fledged decade long transformation effort. He was a trusted advocate, advisor and friend who led through sharing his incredible knowledge. Many blessings to Peter's beautiful family.

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**David Hartley, USCG (ret)** - July 08, 2024 at 07:09 PM

CF

“ 2 files added to the album Peter and family



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**Charlotte Fitzsimmons** - June 05, 2024 at 08:42 PM

DB

“ *Mary, Charlotte, Alicia and family. We are sending our thoughts and prayers to all of you in this very difficult time. Peter was a special man and the memories and his wonderful stories will last a lifetime, our hope is your find comfort in those memories. Dawn and Lane Brown*

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**Dawn M Brown** - May 29, 2024 at 07:46 PM