



Robert Peter Rice

April 5, 1947 - January 10, 2025

Robert Peter Rice, age 77, died of Congestive Heart Failure on January 17, 2025, in Sarasota, Florida. He was born on April 5, 1947, in Three Rivers, Michigan to parents Robert Alton and Annie Elizabeth Rice.

He is survived by his wife Frances Presley Rice of Sarasota, Florida, his sister Rosemary Diana Rudd, of Three Rivers, Michigan; his brother Jonathan Wray Rice, of Three Rivers, Michigan his brother-in-law George Elliot Rudd, of Three Rivers, Michigan, his nephew Christopher Wray Rice, of Three Rivers, Michigan; his Niece Erin Elizabeth Rice of Three Rivers, Michigan; and several uncles, aunts, and cousins.

He is preceded in death by his mother and father.

Peter was retired from the US Foreign Service with the United States Department of State and grew up in Three Rivers, Michigan. He graduated from Western Michigan University with a BA and Golden Gate University with an MPA (Master of Public Administration). He served in the United States Army for four years, starting in 1969, achieved the rank of captain, and earned the Army Commendation Medal. He spent a tour of duty in Vietnam from 1970 to 1971 where he was awarded the Bronze Star.

Before his US Foreign Service, he worked in the US Environmental Protection Agency and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, specializing in information technology. While in the US Foreign Service, he served in Washington, D.C. at the Department of State; Brussels, Belgium; Manilla, The Philippines; and New Delhi, India. One of his assignments was to visit embassies around the world to install a financial management system, and he traveled to embassies and consulates in Australia, Brazil, Germany, England, France, and Belgium. His Foreign Service awards included the US Department of State Superior Honor Award (awarded two times) and Meritorious Honor Award (awarded five times).

The information technology experience he gained as a US Army officer and during his subsequent government career prompted him to acquire an interest in developing Internet sites for nonprofit organizations and assist with preserving African American history by providing funding and computer technical assistance. His keen sense of dedication and hard work were forged during his formative years, starting at age 11, when he faithfully delivered newspapers to his neighbors for five years, during all types of weather in Michigan, summer and winter. His love for serving his country was sparked when he participated in the Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC) at Western Michigan University.

Peter met his wife, Frances Presley Rice, in 1969 while they were Army officers stationed in Pirmasens, Germany and they married there in 1970. He was always amused by the fact that their marriage license was written in English and German. The couple had no children and loved to travel, especially on cruises, and visited all 50 US states, all the ten provinces in Canada, and over 105 countries in the world. After retiring from the Foreign Service, Peter and Frances

moved to Sarasota, Florida in 1999 and made Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club their home.

Peter, known affectionately as "the bird man," was an avid bird watcher who managed the Sarasota County Rare Bird Alert List which shows observations of rare birds in Sarasota County.

He conducted the National Audubon Society's Christmas Bird Count which occurs from December 14 to January 5 every year, with his area being Heritage Oaks.

Peter will be remembered for his exemplary ability to regale and delight listeners with intriguing stories and fancy dance moves due to his Irish genes inherited from his mother who was a British subject born in Northern Ireland. All who met Peter were charmed by his quick wit and warm heart.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to the Mote Marine Laboratory & Aquarium.

Celebrating The Life of Robert Peter Rice

April 5, 1947 – January 17, 2025

Funeral Program

Date: January 28, 2025

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory

40 N. Orange Avenue

Sarasota, FL 34236

Telephone: (941) 955-4171

10:00 am – 12:00 Noon: Visitation

12:00 Noon - 1:00 pm: Funeral Service

Sarasota National Cemetery

9810 State Road 72

Sarasota, FL 34241

2:00 pm: interment

Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club

4800 Chase Oaks Drive

Sarasota, FL 34241

Telephone: (941) 926-7602

Memorial Service

5:00 pm Cocktails in 19th Hole Grille

6:00 pm Dinner in South Main Dining Room

Previous Events

Visitation

JAN 28. 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel
40 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-4171
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Funeral Service

JAN 28. 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Colonial Chapel
40 N. Orange Avenue
Sarasota, FL 34236
(941) 955-4171
info@toalebrothers.com
<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Interment

JAN 28. 2:00 PM (ET)

Sarasota National Cemetery
9810 State Rd 72
Sarasota, FL 34241
(941) 922-7200

Memorial Service

JAN 28. 5:00 PM (ET)

Heritage Oaks Golf & Country Club
4800 Chase Oaks Drive
Sarasota, FL 34241

Tribute Wall

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“ I have worked for Peter when he served in Brussels, Belgium as a information management officer.

Eric Bauwens - April 19, 2025 at 04:24 AM