

# KLAUS PETER HINTERMAYR



I have fought the good fight,  
I have finished the race,  
I have kept the faith.

*2 Timothy 4:7*

# *Miss Me But Let Me Go*

When I come to the end of the road  
And the sun has set for me  
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room  
Why cry for a soul set free?

Miss me a little-but not too long  
And not with your head bowed low  
Remember the love that we once shared  
Miss me-but let me go

For this is a journey that we all must take  
And each must go alone.  
It's all part of the Master's plan  
A step on the road to home

When you are lonely and sick of heart  
Go to the friends we know  
And bury your sorrows in doing good deeds  
Miss me but let me go.

*Author unknown*

KLAUS HINTERMAYR  
October 1, 1940 – September 21, 2019

Klaus was born in Munich, Germany during World War II. His father Martin passed away when Klaus was only three years old. He and his Mom, Anna, stayed in Germany until Klaus was about 12, when his older sister Hilda, and her husband Frances who was in the United States military, helped them immigrate to the United States. Anna and Klaus lived with his sister's family which included his nieces, Sue and Anna, who the family called Ricki.

Klaus and his Mom first landed in New Mexico where Frances was stationed, and Klaus' sister enrolled him in the local grammar school. Remember, Klaus was 12 years old, but his sister enrolled him in the first grade as he did not speak or write English. This did not sit well with Klaus and he left school the first day and he walked the long-distance home. Luckily summer vacation was very close when he started in school and that summer his sister Hilda taught him to speak, read and write enough English to let him return to school in the sixth grade. After that he was not allowed to speak German at home, only to his mother, as of course she spoke no English. During that time, being a young boy in the United States, who was German, was not a particularly good thing to be, so he made every effort to lose his German accent and speak English like an American.

From New Mexico the extended family moved, because of Frances military obligations, to Pennsylvania and then to Fairbanks, Alaska. In Alaska, Klaus attended college to become a Radio Frequency Engineer. He started his own business in Alaska repairing radios on Fire Trucks and Police Vehicles.

From Alaska, Klaus got the itch to travel and sailed his boat, The Summer Wind, to Oregon where he stayed for a short time. Then on to Southern California, docking his boat in San Pedro. Klaus obtained a job as an RF Engineer at Panasonic, and that is here Klaus and Jan met each other. Klaus was still living on his sailboat at that time. He lived on his boat for about six years.

Klaus had been married and divorced when he met Jan and her big family of five children: Tom, Terri, Lisa, Jeff and Jon. Jan invited Klaus to Thanksgiving dinner and decided if he didn't run away from this big clan, he was indeed a keeper! Klaus didn't have any children of his own, so Jan's kids became his. Klaus and Jan married at Christmas time in 1989. In December, they would have celebrated their 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Life was busy with work at Panasonic and raising the large family.

Both Klaus and Jan were part of the downsizing at Panasonic in 1999, so they decided to move to Washington to retire. They found a beautiful piece of property on Old Schoolhouse Road and decided to build their dream home. They first built a shop which they lived in while their home was being built. Woodworking was one of Klaus' hobbies and he used his skill in his beautiful new home. At their new home they started a garden which soon grew to over ½ of an acre. Klaus had a great time with Jan selling his produce at the Port Townsend market and other local venues. He also kept beehives and sold the honey. He loved talking to people at the markets and sharing his stories about how he grew his fruits and vegetables and raised his bees. He was into organic farming before it really became popular as he knew it was the right way to farm!

Life was good for Klaus and Jan. Klaus loved the community and he was soon a volunteer with the Gardiner Fire Department, a member of the Gardiner Salmon Derby team and of course he loved the ROMEO's and Gardiner's Men's Coffee group. He was always busy and happy to help anyone he could. He loved the Gardiner community and everyone in it.

Klaus' Harley, wood working, gardening and of course, being Papa Klaus to the 5 kids, 12 grandkids and 10 great grandkids. Klaus' Harley is still in the basement of their house, and even though he couldn't ride it any longer, just seeing it brought great memories to him. Did you know that Jan and Klaus actually rode out to Sturgis for the big Harley rally? ... they loved the freedom, fun, and camaraderie they experienced while riding their bike.

Klaus indeed had a full life ... sailing his boat "The Summer Wind", riding his Harley, building his final dream home, and being a part of this wonderful community was more than he thought he could achieve, but was very grateful and happy that he had this wonderful life.

During all of Klaus' very challenged life, if you asked him how he was, he would always answer, "Better than I deserve". Klaus was a humble, grateful and loving man and will be missed by all of us. Do not be sad, rather think of a fun time you had with Klaus, look up into the sky and blow him a kiss ... that is the memory he would have wanted.