

City of Poulsbo

Office of Mayor Edward “Ed” Stern



April 15, 2026

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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City of Poulsbo Proclaims April 13, 2026 as “Cecil V. Peterson Day” in Honor of 103rd Birthday of WWII Veteran

Poulsbo, WA — Mayor Edward Stern and the Poulsbo City Council have officially proclaimed April 13, 2026, as “Cecil V. Peterson Day” in honor of longtime resident, decorated World War II veteran, and cherished community member Cecil V. Peterson on his 103rd birthday.

Mayor Stern presented the proclamation during a surprise visit to Mr. Peterson’s home at noon on April 13, joined by Washington State Representative Greg Nance and Poulsbo City Councilmember Michael Fitzpatrick. Family members, including relatives who traveled from Norway, were also present to celebrate the milestone.

“It was a true honor to be in the company of such a distinguished citizen and veteran on his 103rd birthday,” said Mayor Stern. “Cecil Peterson represents the very best of Poulsbo—service, humility, and a lifelong commitment to both country and community.”

Mr. Peterson, a graduate of Poulsbo High School in 1942, enlisted in the United States Army shortly after graduation and served in the European Theater during World War II. His distinguished military service earned him numerous honors, including the Bronze Star, a Presidential Commendation from General Dwight D. Eisenhower, and the Purple Heart.

Serving as a U.S. Army Aviation Cadet and as a member of the 100th Division, 397th Infantry, 3rd Battalion Headquarters Company Anti-Tank Platoon, Mr. Peterson landed in Marseille, France, and fought across Europe from October 1944 through May 1945. He was in Germany at the time of its surrender and later served in Stuttgart as part of the occupation forces.

Following his military service, Mr. Peterson continued contributing to national defense through his work at the Bremerton Shipyard, where he specialized in submarine construction and refitting, including assignments in Rota, Spain and Manila, Philippines. He is part of a proud legacy as the fourth of five generations of Peterson men to retire from the shipyard.

A lifelong and active member of the Poulsbo community, Mr. Peterson has shared his expertise in local projects, including construction of the Sons of Norway building, and has proudly

celebrated his Norwegian heritage. In recent years, he has served as a Grand Marshal in the Poulsbo Veterans Day Parade.

In May 2026, Mr. Peterson will be the only World War II veteran among 80 veterans participating in the Puget Sound Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., further highlighting his extraordinary legacy.

The City of Poulsbo extends its deepest gratitude and admiration to Mr. Peterson for his selfless service and enduring contributions to the community, the nation, and future generations.



Photo Caption: Representative Greg Nance, Councilmember Michael Fitzpatrick, Mayor Ed Stern presenting the Cecil V. Peterson proclamation to Mr. Peterson.

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