

THE PETERSON SPIRIT AWARD

Winners May and June 2022



Paul & Tiffany Shetka #134834

Anyone who has attended an Xscapers event probably knows Paul and Tiffany. They are proud lifetime members of Escapees and are often at Annual Bash. They will be some of the first faces to greet you with a warm smile, welcoming you home. Both have extensive track records of meaningful volunteerism and service to other members since the early years of Xscapers. Going above and beyond traditional club volunteering service, they help run the daily operations of events and go out of their way to welcome new members by hosting impromptu group gatherings. They represent the power of our group to act selflessly and to sustain the club as a strong and compassionate community of RVers. This creates a foundation and a pattern for how we all act as Escapees and Xscapers.



Deborah Phillips #45708

An Escapees member and Rainbow's End neighbor had a medical accident during a major winter storm in West Texas, ending up in the hospital and unable to drive. After putting out a request for help, Deborah answered the call to assist without hesitation. Upon volunteering to fly to Midland, Texas, she then drove her fellow member and trailer back to Livingston, Texas, where she could receive additional medical attention near her home. Deborah's willingness to care for others and volunteering her time to go above and beyond in this selfless act, is a great example of Escapees philosophies and community.



Jacques and Jackie LaCasse #158325

Many RVers often experience a situation of frustration over a critical system issue or failure that is beyond our ability to fix. That was the case for an Xscaper attending the last Annual Bash suffering from a solar and battery system issues. Not only did Jacques and Jackie go above and beyond by consoling, reassuring and educating their fellow attendee, they also allowed him to connect to their battery system while they tirelessly searched for the fault in the system to determine a solution. As the nominator stated in their submission, their commitment to help kept them from quitting the RV lifestyle. While the situation at the time was undoubtedly frustrating and disheartening, Jacques and Jackie exemplify the standards of fellowship, support and friendship we have all come to appreciate as club members.

Judy Rinehimer, SKP# 89390

As one nominator noted, "the Caring and Sharing attitude of this prestigious award is epitomized by Judy's 'can do, will do' attitude." Judy and her late husband, Luke, were key leaders and organizers for the Boomers Balloon Fiesta Rally from 2006 to 2017 and other club rallies, such as SKP Geocaching. Once again, in 2021, Judy stepped up to save the Boomer Balloon Fiesta by volunteering to host the rally even though she was off the road and no longer had an RV. In addition, Judy has volunteered to share her knowledge with fellow SKPs at Escapades, BoF rallies and other gatherings across the USA over the years, and she continues to be well known by the Boomers, Geocachers and many fellow members. Judy is certainly a one-of-a-kind person, always being there when called and stepping up when she sees a need, rightfully earning the nickname "Cool Judy."





Joe and Kay Peterson,
ESCAPEES RV Club Founders

As we celebrate four decades of serving RVers, we want to observe and uphold the spirit of our founders,

Joe and Kay Peterson,

and the feelings of community fostered through caring and sharing. To do this, we have created the

Peterson Spirit Award,

a prestigious honor to be granted to Escapees members who demonstrate our core value by going over and above the expectations of others in order to support a fellow RVer in need.

NOMINATE SOMEONE!

You will need their name and member number (also referred to as SKP #), plus your name, your contact information, a description of the action or behavior for which you are nominating them and an explanation of why you feel this action is worthy of the award. Recipients will be selected from the submitted nominations on a monthly basis by the Escapees RV Club's Board of Directors.

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RVers were still just a tiny segment. Most of the friends I met were in the construction field, but nurses, journalists, photographers, among others, began to discover that they could travel and work, too. Over the decades, the number of younger people in the club gradually began to grow, but it wasn't until this past decade that the circle expanded so incredibly. I can't help thinking how wonderful it would have been to be surrounded by so many of my peers in those early years of RVing!

I know now that my small circle of fellow RVers who sought this lifestyle at a young age, were not so brave and unique after all. We were just fortunate! We were fortunate to have pioneers like Kay and Joe to light our way. Today the same adventuresome spirits have found the gumption to follow the same untraditional path. I can almost hear Joe and Kay whispering, "Way to go!" And I say, "Way to go, Travis and Melanie, for driving the wagons forward with your torches shining bright."

Bud Carr #3

Cathie and I have been in the organization so long that I can barely remember anything else. I was talking to a member once and their assessment of what the Escapee family means said it all. "You know, I belong to a lot of other organizations and clubs, but I am an Escapee." That statement to me says everything about what this organization is and always has been. It made me proud to have a small part in making the club into the family it is. Now, to see Travis and Melanie take the reins and continue the original dream Joe and Kay envisioned makes me unbelievably proud and, hopefully, my grandsons will follow suit.

As we look ahead to our 44th year and what's to come, we promise you we will not be running idle. In addition to our main project list, we have been, and will remain, hard at work checking things off our 2022 resolutions. Park projects are being completed, new partners and resources are being added, new staff members are being welcomed to the family and, best of all, our event calendar is running strong so you can gather with your community!

No matter how long you have been a part of the Escapees family, we hope you will join us in celebration as we enter another year of carrying forward the legacy that Joe and Kay Peterson created in 1978. And with that, I'll leave you with a Chorus from the Escapees Traveling Song: "We've given up our fixed address for something better yet. And we travel with the finest people that we've ever met. So, keep your home fires burning friend as long as we're alive, our home is where we park it—send our mail to Rainbow Dr." 