



**Ray Francis Peters Jr.**  
**Commander, Dental Corps, U.S. Navy Reserves**  
**1942 – 1965**

Ray was born on 30 October 1924 in Allentown General Hospital, Pennsylvania. At the time of his birth, his family was living at 1827 Pennsylvania Street, Allentown, Lehigh County. His parents were **Raymond Francis Peters** (9 September 1889 – 23 July 1964), a dentist who graduated from University of Pennsylvania Dental School in 1911, and **Anna Lona Weitknecht** (30 March 1891 – February 1983). Ray attended Muhlenberg Elementary School, Raub Jr. High School and Allentown High School. After graduating from high school in 1942, Ray enrolled in Muhlenberg College in Allentown under the Navy's V-12 College Training Program for dentistry. The V-12 Program was instituted to supplement the force of commissioned officers in the Navy during World War II. After graduating from the two-year program at Muhlenberg in July 1944, and enrolling in the University of Pennsylvania Dental School to complete the remaining three years of the V-12 Program, Ray was commissioned Ensign U.S. Navy Reserves. In July 1947, he received his Doctor of Dental Surgery Degree from the University of Pennsylvania; however, by that time, World War II had ended and there was no need for additional active duty Dental Officers as the Navy was downsizing. Therefore, Ray remained on reserve duty and returned to his hometown to practice dentistry with his father; in addition, he served as a dental examiner for the Allentown School District for one year. On 21 August 1948, Ray married **Pollyanna Schaeffer** (born 5 September 1926) at St. James Reform Church in Allentown. As a result of the Korean War, Ray was activated in the autumn of 1950. In preparation for his deployment to Korea, he was ordered to Great Lakes Naval Training Center (NTC) near Chicago, Illinois. Although he anticipated a deployment to support United Nations troops fighting on the Korean Peninsula, his orders were unexpectedly changed and he was sent to Bainbridge NTC near Port Deposit, Maryland. He left Bainbridge in the summer of 1952 after two years of active duty. He then returned to Allentown where he resumed his private practice and served in the Reserve Component, Navy Dental Corps, at a Marine Reserve unit Headquarters and Service Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Marine Division, located in Freemansburg, Pennsylvania. His once-a-month weekend drills were supplemented each year by a two-week period of active training (AT) at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, (with one AT at Camp Pendleton, California, in 1965) until his retirement in 1965 with 23 years of service. His service awards include the World War II Victory, National Defense Service, and Korean Service Medals. In May 1968, Ray, Pollyanna, and their three children, **Ray Francis III** (born 8 September 1949), **Jennifer Sue** (born 7 November 1952), and **Andrew Dean** (born 14 August 1957), moved from 1828 Highland Street in Allentown to settle at 2451 Riverbend Road in Lower Macungie Township. Ray continued his private practice at 819 Linden Street in Allentown until suffering a stroke in June 1995. He passed away at home on 6 January 2001. He is buried at Grandview Cemetery on Walbert Avenue in Allentown. Ray served for many years on the board of directors of the Lehigh County Historical Society, and was a founding member of the Lower Macungie Township Historical Society. Ray and Polly's son Andrew graduated from Temple Dental School in May 1983, and was commissioned Lieutenant in the Navy Dental Corps; he is still serving on active duty Naval Hospital Bethesda with the rank of Captain. Ray's younger brother, **Charles David Peters** (born 30 November 1932) graduated from University of Pennsylvania Medical School and served as an Army Captain with an overseas tour in Greenland in the 1950s. His nephew (Charles's son), **Charles David Peters Jr.** was trained as a Navy Internist and Navy Cardiologist in the Navy Medical Corps (1994 – 2008) with a deployment to Kuwait (August 2006 to March 2007) in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Ray's uncle (his father's brother), **Arthur Peters**, served in an Army Construction Battalion with training at Camp Crane, Allentown, prior to going overseas during World War I.