



Peter H. Paulsen

Peter H. Paulsen was born in Germany near the Danish border, 120 miles north of Hamburg. He immigrated to the United States at age 17 to the small town of Davenport, Iowa.

In Germany, Peter had received a Master Brick Layer degree after completing a three-year apprenticeship. Two months after his arrival in the U.S., he began working as a brick layer with a small residential builder in Davenport. After working for that builder for two years, Peter moved to Moline, Illinois and started his own masonry company, Peter Paulsen Masonry.

He started building spec homes in Moline and eventually started building high-end apartment buildings. At that time, Peter was married and had three children, Veronica, Lisa and Susan. At age 30, Peter and his wife decided to retire early and moved to the Golden State of California to explore opportunities in real estate development.

Retirement didn't stick for Peter, and shortly after arriving in Palo Alto, California he started building apartment buildings in San Jose. He soon also began building commercial office buildings. The first commercial complex he built was 200,000 square feet, comprised of six buildings covering nine acres on Moorepark Avenue in San Jose. Shortly after this, he branched out to Sacramento, California, and within three years, he developed another 200,000 square-foot office complex.

In 1985, Peter founded Commerce Security Bank in Sacramento, California and served as Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the Loan Committee. In 1995, Peter sold the bank, and in a second attempt at retirement, he moved to Bellingham, Washington. He then built the Hotel Bellwether and a three-story commercial office building adjacent to the hotel on Bellingham Bay.

In 2010, he sold the hotel and office building in Bellingham and moved to Phoenix, Arizona. In 2018, Peter married his sweetheart, Diana. They enjoy their home in Phoenix and spend the summer months in Newport Beach, California where they have a vacation home.

In 2016, Peter founded the Peter Paulsen Foundation, renamed the Peter and Diana Paulsen Foundation, which supports many projects and organizations including the Boys and Girls Club, Skookum Kids, Mayo Clinic, and PeaceHealth St. Joseph Medical Center, just to name a few.