



## Burton H Pearson

December 27, 1923 - June 10, 2016

Burton H. Pearson, 92, of St. Joseph passed away on Friday, June 10, 2016 at Caretel Inns in Royalton Township.

Services celebrating his life will be held at 11 AM on Wednesday, June 15, at Saron Lutheran Church in St. Joseph. Entombment will follow at North Shore Mausoleum. The family will receive friends and relatives from 5 PM to 8 PM on Tuesday at the Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service in Benton Harbor. Memorials may be made to Sarett Nature Center or Saron Lutheran Church. Please share memories, messages or photos at [www.florin.net](http://www.florin.net).

Burt was born on Dec 27, 1923 in Stevensville and was the third child of Joel and Ellen Pearson. Following graduation from St. Joseph High School in 1941, Burt attended Northwestern Univ Engineering School. He was drafted in 1943 and served at the Headquarter Squadron of the US Army Air Corp in Washington. Upon returning to St. Joseph he attended Kalamazoo College and graduated from Western Mich Univ with a B. S. Degree in Business Administration. After college Burt joined the family construction company, Pearson Construction, and became President in 1964. Burt retired in 1999 when his son, Burt II, became President.

He married his wife, Jean Anderson in 1949 and together they have celebrated 66 years of marriage.

He was a church council member of Saron Lutheran Church for 40 years, a former board member of Sarett Nature Center, a former director of the Inter-City Bank for 17 years, and was a member of the St. Joseph-Benton Harbor Rotary Club. Burt had been a member of both Berrien Hills and Point-O-Woods Country Clubs.

Burt's contributions to our community include many of the buildings we see every day. They include Lake Michigan College, Berrien County Courthouse, Krasl Art Center, St. Joseph City Hall, Priscilla Byrns Heritage Center and Whirlpool Corporation. His company also constructed the Escanaba Water Works, Sisters of Mercy Hospital and Sangren Hall

at Western Mich Univ. Many of the commercial buildings and offices in the area were built by his company.

His family includes his wife, Jean; his children, Christine (Roger) Petzke, and Burton (Margaret) Pearson, II; his grandchildren, Lars (Liz) Petzke, Nils (Melinda) Petzke, Linnea (Bobby) Walmsley, Anna Pearson, Britta Pearson, and Greta Pearson; his great grandchildren, Carter, Wyatt, Lucas and Finley Petzke and his several nieces and nephews He was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Elmer, Forrest, and Vernon; his sister, Pearl (Jean) McColl; his grandson, Frans Petzke and his nephews, Steve and Frederick Pearson.

# Cemetery Details

## North Shore Memory Gardens

5027 M 63 N  
Coloma, MI 49038

# Previous Events

## Visitation

JUN **14**. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Fairplain Chapel of Florin Funeral Service  
1053 East Napier Avenue  
Benton Harbor, MI 49022  
(269) 926-7222  
staff@florin.net

## Service Celebrating His Life

JUN **15**. 11:00 AM (ET)

Saron Lutheran Church  
510 Main Street  
St. Joseph, MI 49085  
saron@acd.net  
<http://www.saronlutheran.org>

## Entombment

JUN **15**. 12:30 PM (ET)

North Shore Memory Gardens  
5027 M 63 N  
Coloma, MI 49038

# Tribute Wall

HF

“ *Harry Funk lit a candle in memory of Burton H Pearson*




Harry Funk - June 21, 2016 at 12:59 PM

HF

*Burt was the best person I had ever worked for. He was very kind and showed integrity. A wonderful example to follow. He certainly will be missed by the entire community that he put so much into.*

Harry Funk - June 21, 2016 at 01:02 PM

 Deborah  
Pratt

“ *Dear Burt and family,  
I was very sorry to hear of your father's passing. Praying that the love and support of family and friends will ease this difficult time for you all.  
Deb Pratt*

Deborah Pratt - June 16, 2016 at 07:01 PM

JH

“ *Burt was a great man who surely will be missed by many. He leaves an enduring legacy, not only the many landmark buildings, but as a kind and thoughtful man.  
Jim Hahn*

Jim Hahn - June 14, 2016 at 03:44 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Burton H Pearson.*



June 14, 2016 at 02:09 PM

AB

“ I would to send our sympathy to the Burton family. I have know Burt for over thirty years and had the please of helping him when ever he call for assistants with property tax information. I would reach and give him items and sales information for him to contest the Board of Review in the various areas that he felt the value was to high. I always enjoyed talk with him and of course helping him. He will be sadly missed but he has left one big mark here in his Community.

Alberta Braford - June 14, 2016 at 11:38 AM

BG

“ Burt, Meg, Anna, Britta, and Greta purchased the Treasured Lilies Spray for the family of Burton H Pearson.



Burt, Meg, Anna, Britta, and Greta - June 14, 2016 at 09:59 AM

DT

“ Dion, Joanne and Nicholas Tsevdos purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Burton H Pearson.



Dion, Joanne and Nicholas Tsevdos - June 14, 2016 at 09:39 AM



“ Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Burton H Pearson.



June 13, 2016 at 09:01 PM

DA

“ Our sincere condolences to Jean and to the rest of the family in this time of grief. Burt always has had a special place in our hearts for all the encouragements the family gave us over the years as former neighbors. Rest in peace Burt.

Dr. E.H. Ward and Ann - June 13, 2016 at 02:42 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Burton H Pearson.*



June 13, 2016 at 02:35 PM

TF

“ *Tina And Birger Olander & Family lit a candle in memory of Burton H Pearson*



**Tina and Birger Olander & family** - June 13, 2016 at 01:39 PM

SW

“ *Steve, Mary, Alan and Liz White purchased the Arrive in Style for the family of Burton H Pearson.*



**Steve, Mary, Alan and Liz White** - June 13, 2016 at 12:56 PM

AP

“ *Anna, Britta and Greta Pearson purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Burton H Pearson.*



**Anna, Britta and Greta Pearson** - June 13, 2016 at 12:53 PM

PS

“ *Phil, Dorothy and Claire Smith purchased the Victorian Teacup Bouquet for the family of Burton H Pearson.*



**Phil, Dorothy and Claire Smith** - June 13, 2016 at 12:49 PM



“ *Fairest of All* was purchased for the family of Burton H Pearson.



June 13, 2016 at 12:46 PM



“ *Loving Lilies and Roses Bouquet* was purchased for the family of Burton H Pearson.



June 13, 2016 at 12:41 PM



“ *Fruit Abounds* was purchased for the family of Burton H Pearson.



June 13, 2016 at 12:22 PM

SD

“ *Dear Burt and Family - You are all in my thoughts and prayers. Burt Sr. was quite a guy. I fondly remember him driving me around "Michigan's Great Southwest" upon my return to the area in 2006 - to bring me up to date on all the development in the area that had taken place since I had left. He was an incredibly sweet soul! God Bless.*  
*Susan Dearing-Bond*

**Susan Dearing-Bond** - June 13, 2016 at 10:17 AM



“ *Sentiments of Serenity Spray* was purchased for the family of Burton H Pearson.



June 13, 2016 at 10:15 AM

CH

“ Dear Pearson family,

*I was sorry to read of Mr. Pearson's death in the newspaper. You all have my deepest sympathy at this time of loss. I have many fond memories of my father working for Pearson Construction for many years. He was involved in building many of the buildings noted in Mr. Pearson's obituary. I am also grateful to work for the company for three years while attending college. May God bless your entire family as you celebrate the life of Mr. Pearson.*

*Chuck Hoge*

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**Chuck Hoge** - June 13, 2016 at 09:03 AM

TF

“ The Hatfield family purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Burton H Pearson.



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**The Hatfield family** - June 13, 2016 at 08:56 AM



“ I remember Mr. Pearson using his construction equipment to clear our driveway of the severe lake effect snow storms. My mom never asked, he just did it...no charge...

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**Malcolm Hatfield** - June 13, 2016 at 07:51 AM

ET

“ Elisabet And Per Torstensson lit a candle in memory of Burton H Pearson



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**Elisabet and Per Torstensson** - June 13, 2016 at 01:59 AM

JW

“ Burt Pearson was a kind and lovely person--a real gentleman. He always made others around him feel important. He has been a shining light in many lives. He will be missed immensely.

*Jackie and Rick Watson  
Grand Rapids, Michigan*

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**Jacquelyn Watson** - June 12, 2016 at 07:29 PM

JW

“ Jacquelyn Watson lit a candle in memory of Burton H  
Pearson



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**Jacquelyn Watson** - June 12, 2016 at 07:26 PM