



Dr. John W. Pierce

January 30, 1923 - March 30, 2019

Dr. John Wesley Pierce, 96, of Indianapolis, passed away peacefully in Christ March 30, 2019. He was born January 30, 1923 in Nancy, Kentucky to his parents, Everett and Anita Pierce where he spent his youthful years up through high school. Following high school, he enrolled in the Spencerian Business College in Louisville, Kentucky. After being there a few months, World War!! Started at which time he left college and worked at the Baldwin Piano company in Cincinnati, Ohio installing the wire strings on upright pianos until he was drafted into World War II at Fort Thomas, Kentucky. After spending basic training in Texas, John was sent to Fort Kamahameha, at the entrance to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii for the duration of the war. After almost three years there, he lost most of his hearing being in a tower near 16 inch mortar guns. Upon discharge from the Army in December of 1945, he enrolled at the Lindsey Wilson College in January of 1946 studying Premed. John then entered Western Kentucky University studying Biological Sciences and following graduation he accepted a job at his Alma Mater, Nancy High School, teaching English, Mathematics and Coaching Basketball since he had been a high school, Army and Lindsey Wilson College basketball player. At Lindsey Wilson, John served as President of the Student Body his entire stay and was selected as Mr. Freshman and Mr. Sophomore, King of their May Festival, selected Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities. At Nancy High School as a teacher, he organized a Boy Scout Troop of America and served as their

Scout Master for three years. With a continuation of his hearing loss, John was uncertain about continuing his pursuit of a Medical Degree. John left Kentucky in May 1941, and enrolled in Lincoln Chiropractic College, Indianapolis, and after receiving his Dr.'s Degree in 1955 at graduation he received an Honorary Achievement plaque from the faculty as the Outstanding Graduate of his class for Outstanding Collegiate Activity and Professional Integrity. He accepted a position on the faculty as a professor of Bacteriology, Pathology, Anatomy and Physiology. He continued studying medical courses at different colleges in summer time and evening school. In 1957, John met Jeanette Horton, a beautiful, young, intelligent lady who after one year became his wife. She was a great inspiration for him, accepting and encouraging him in many different fields of study. After graduating from a Business College in Kokomo, Indiana, Jeanette accepted a job with AT&T and worked for them for several years. Her hobbies were flowers and sewing. Dr. Pierce served as President of Lincoln College for a short time before his retirement from the college.

After traveling in 11 foreign countries, John settled down at home and studied Theology with the American Baptist of Indiana. After receiving his sixth college degree, he taught Bible classes, and conducted worship services in nursing homes, assisted living homes and served every capacity in his own churches. He took lessons in many different areas through life. John was self taught and played the organ for 40 years; took banjo lessons for one year and guitar lessons for one year. Having studied Meteorology at Western Kentucky University, he worked as a Weather Observer for Channel 8 News for four years reporting Castleton, Indiana weather to Randy Ollis of Channel 8 who repeated it over the air. Shortly after receiving his doctorate degree, he gave health reports by way of a local radio station near his residence for about one year. Other hobbies of John's was making ceramic figures and hooking small rugs. Some of his ceramics were international winners.

Dr. Pierce completed writing his Memoir Book five years ago and upon request of two national museums, he sent a copy of his book to the National

Museum of Zollie Coffey Park and the Museum of Mill Springs; both established during the Civil War between the United States North and South. Both of these museums are located at Nancy, Kentucky, Dr. Pierce's birth place. He received his MA Degree at Ball State University in 1969. During the debates between Donald Trump and Hillary Clinton for President of the United States, Dr. Pierce served President Trump in an advisory capacity. Since the President's election, Dr. Pierce served on President Trump's Advisory Board. Preceding Dr. Pierce in death were his oldest brother, Lewel; his two older sisters, Dorothy Hughes (Harold) and Marie Ferrell (Sam); his older brother, Winford (Opal Green); his younger brother, Lawrence (Louise Helton); and youngest brother, Noel (Jean); and youngest sister, Maxine Howard. Visitation will be Tuesday, April 2, 2019 from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel, 9900 Allisonville Road, Fishers, with funeral services there Wednesday at 11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be made to East 91st Street Christian Church, 6049 East 91st Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250.

Cemetery Details

Oaklawn Memorial Gardens

9700 Allisonville Rd.
Indianapolis, IN

Previous Events

Visitation

APR 2. 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel
9900 N. Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 841-7878
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Funeral Service

APR 3. 11:00 AM (ET)

Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel
9900 N. Allisonville Road
Fishers, IN 46038
(317) 841-7878
info@shirleybrothers.com
<https://www.shirleybrothers.com>

Tribute Wall

RW

“ John W's.(or Wesley as we called him) parents lived down and across the road where I grew up at Nancy, Ky. Our parents were all friends and some relation. Once about 60 years ago Wesley came down, as he often did, to visit his mother for the weekend. One afternoon he was hitting shag golf balls from their lawn across the road into one of my father's fields. i would run and find the balls and return them to Wesley. After 3 or 4 trips he then proceded to show me how to hold the club and make a swing. Being about age12 I learned quickly and made contact and hit the balls pretty good. I have loved the game ever since, starting playing college, but it all started with Wesley taking the time to show me to a game for a lifetime. About 25 years ago I got the opportunity to play a round with him, my brother and another relative at Burnside Island State Park golf course. We all enjoyed it very much.

I, too, would like to know the Bible passage that Mr. Gardner referred to in his tribute.

Wesley was a wonderful, caring and devout person whom I will never forget. Rest In Peace.

Richard Warner

Richard Warner - April 02, 2019 at 05:18 PM

“ A few years ago I was employed as a limo driver for an Indy funeral company. One day my clients were Dr. and Mrs. Pierce. The funeral was for the sister of Mrs. Pierce. The rural cemetery was a few miles north of Indy. The weather was a bit damp, and Mrs. Pierce was a bit unwell. The limo provided two fleece blankets for the use of the clients. The first remarkable event of the day occurred when Dr. Pierce departed his residence a few minutes earlier than the appointed pick-up time. He introduced himself, and explained that he and his wife would be along shortly. As she was unwell, they appeared together, Dr. Pierce lovingly escorting her to the car. She required assistance being seated in the car, and he expressed his preference that I permit him to accommodate her. Accordingly, I went to the driver's position. On the drive to the cemetery, Dr. Pierce explained he was legally deaf, so would I speak up. I asked Dr. Pierce if he was a Veteran. He replied he, indeed, was a Veteran, and that was why he was without a full measure of hearing. He explained he had been deployed to Hawaii, and was present on Pearl Harbor Day. (It had been my honor to serve many Veterans and their families as a driver, but none other had been on duty in Hawaii on Pearl Harbor Day). I began to sense the passion for living evidenced by Dr. Pierce. In the rear view mirror of the limo, I saw that Dr. Pierce had used BOTH fleece blankets to ensure the comfort of his wife. At the burial, the Funeral Director asked if anyone present would wish to speak any remarks. Dr. Pierce indicated he would do so if others present would not mind if he replaced his hat on his head, as the wet and wind were somewhat discomforting. Dr. Pierce thereupon recited from memory one chapter of the bible which relates the phases of life each of us experiences. At this place, in those circumstances, his recitation was inordinately appropriate and beautiful. I will never forget it. When I got home that evening, the first thing I did was consult our family bible and sure enough, there was the text recited by Dr. Pierce, word for word. Once back to the home of Dr. and Mrs. Pierce, he asked me to wait until he had returned Mrs. Pierce to the warmth and comfort of their home. When he returned to me, we shook hands, and I knew he was passing from his hand to my hand

paper currency. I held his hand and explained I had a personal policy of not accepting a tip from Veterans or their families, especially Veterans of Pearl Harbor. Could I ask him to use the gift as a donation to their church (he had spoken eloquently in the car about their involvement in their church), a Veteran's Charity, or any other charity of their choice... He heartily agreed to do so. We said good-bye. Thus ended one of the most meaningful and eventful days of my life. I thank God for the opportunity to meet one of our country's finest military heroes and most devout Christians. May Dr. Pierce live everlastingly in heaven forevermore. Amen!

Ralph Gardner

Ralph Gardner - April 02, 2019 at 10:06 AM

SH

What a wonderful tribute for this very fine gentleman! Would you mind telling us the verse in the Bible that meant so much to you. Sherry Henson

sherry Henson - April 02, 2019 at 11:49 AM

JC

Yes, please; we'd love to know the passage...

J.R. Collins - April 02, 2019 at 01:59 PM

DT

Dr. Pierce's Physiology and Anatomy class at Lawrence Central High School in the mid-70's was one of my favorites. I was puzzled that his teaching years there weren't mentioned. He was an excellent educator - patient, kind, interested - and an exemplary role model for his students.

Diane M Thompson - April 04, 2019 at 11:04 AM

WM

I just googled Dr Pierce to check up and found his obituary. I was one of his students at Lawrence Central HS in the mid 1970's. My goal was to become a physician and he very much encouraged me. Well, after medical school both Dr Pierce and his sweet wife were 2 of my patients. After reuniting Dr Pierce took me to a Billy Graham convention in Indianapolis to open my eyes a bit more to religion, and mission accomplished. What a good, good man he was. Thank you Dr. Pierce for mentoring me during my formative years. I will miss you. Godspeed Dr. Pierce. Respectfully, William McTurnan, M.D.

William McTurnan, M.D. - November 09, 2020 at 08:43 PM