



Ray A. Pierce

April 15, 1923 - September 20, 2014

Ray Alford Pierce, 91, of New Castle, went home to be with the Lord, on the afternoon of Saturday, September 20, 2014 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis.

He was born April 15, 1923, in Jennings County, Indiana, a son of the late Merle and Emma Pierce, and was raised in the Westport area where he enjoyed visiting often.

Ray graduated high school in Zenas, Indiana in 1941 and attended Hanover College. He received his Bachelors Degree from Indiana Central University and his Masters Degree from Ball State University. He was a member of Gamma Sigma Pi fraternity. An award winning teacher, he taught Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics at Tri High School and also in Straughn, New Lisbon and Lewisville schools. Early in his professional career, Ray worked as an Engineer with General Motors. He was instrumental in designing headlamp lenses replacing the old round type with those that spread light beams over the roadways. He earned the whopping sum of \$1.00 per hour for his labor.

He loved people and especially enjoyed visiting with his former students. Never one to be idle, he was a woodworker, as well as a “tinkerer”. Ray also farmed most of his life, and currently was raising a garden. At the age of 85 years old, he was putting a new roof on his shed and fell off the roof. When

his great-niece found him lying in the garden, he told her that he had just gotten tired and decided to lie down.

Ray loved the Lord. People would often say that he had an aura of Godliness about him. He especially loved praying with people and he and his wife, Jill, had a ministry of visiting people who were homebound. He was a longtime member of Foursquare Church in New Castle where he had taught Sunday school and also served as a board member at Agape School.

He is survived by his wife, Jill Wasson Pierce; a nephew, Charles (wife: Caralee) McKay of Selma; his niece, Norma (husband: Paul) Walls of Perris, California; several great-nieces and nephews; his step-daughters, Susan (husband: Les) Moore of Hagerstown, Wendy Root of Port St. Lucie, Florida; step-son, Bill Wasson of Straughn; seven step-grandchildren and his dear and special friends, Don and Shirley Biehl, Marti and D.R. Shuck and Terry and Kathy Irwin.

In addition to his parents, he was preceded in death by his first wife, Lorraine Pierce in 2008; twin sons, Ray and Rex Pierce and his brothers, Harold Pierce and Raymond McKay.

Funeral services will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, September 25, 2014 at Sproles Family Funeral Home with Pastor Jim Becker officiating. Graveside services will follow at 2:00 p.m. in Westport Cemetery, Westport, Indiana.

The family will receive friends from 4:00 – 8:00 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

You may send the family a personal condolence at www.sprolesfamilycares.com.

The Sproles family and staff are honored to serve the family of Ray Pierce.

Previous Events

Visitation

SEP **24.** 4:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

Service

SEP **25.** 10:00 AM (ET)

Sproles Family Funeral Home
2400 S Memorial Dr
New Castle, IN 47362
(765) 521-2400
toms@sprolesfamilycares.com
<https://www.sprolesfamilycares.com/>

Graveside Service

SEP **25.** 2:00 PM (ET)

Westport Cemetery
6203 W Co Rd 1100 S
Westport, IN

Tribute Wall

RK

“ Uncle Al, we were so sad when we heard of your passing but we know you're with the Lord and take comfort in that. I will always remember the several times I'd stay for a week on your farm. Being from the city, that was a huge adjustment! I remember bottle feeding baby pigs and when I asked why we had to feed them that way, you said "well, it's because their mommy doesn't have enough dinner plates!" I think about that now and get a big chuckle! We'll miss you Uncle Al but know we'll see you again some day.

Love,
Rita, Roger, Josh and Joey Knox

Rita Knox - September 27, 2014 at 09:29 PM

RK

“ Rita Knox lit a candle in memory of Ray A. Pierce



Rita Knox - September 27, 2014 at 09:17 PM

CS

“ Ray was a longtime friend of my family and strong presence at the Lewisville Methodist church where we all attended. I have such fond memories of visiting their home during my childhood. His sons were special friends of mine and my sister, Julie. I saw him at my brother in law's (Max Wilson) funeral where he enjoyed visiting with my dad, Jay Coop. That was such a joy to see because the next time I saw him was when dad went home to The Lord several months later. During my adult years, any time I went home to visit, mom and dad would take me around to visit Ray and Lorraine. And they never failed to welcome with open arms. Special prayers and deepest sympathy to another wonderful friend, Jill Wasson Pierce.

Cathy Lynn (Coop) Smith-Pauley - September 26, 2014 at 02:07 PM

KG

“ To his family, I am sorry for your loss! Mr. Pierce inspired me with science, which directly lead to my long career, where I use physics everyday to help hundreds of people. One of the great inspirations of my life and a true gift to many!

Kathy "Pew" Grimwood - September 25, 2014 at 10:19 PM

JS

“ Jill, regret we were not able to get by the funeral home, but we do want you to know that we wish you comfort during these days. May your memories bring you joy and may God strengthen you day by day. Love in Christ, Linda and Jim Sweigart

Jim & Linda Sweigart - September 25, 2014 at 08:05 PM

WW

“ I first called you, Mr Pierce, my chemistry teacher. Because of your dedication and kindness I passed that class. As years went by I called you Ray. A long time family friend who shared the last few years with my mother.

I know you are in heaven, home at last ~

Love & respect,

Wendy



Wendy Wasson - September 25, 2014 at 03:13 PM

CE

“ Mr. Pierce was not only a wonderful teacher but a kind person. He was kind enough to help me through math back in the Straughn High School days. Sincere condolences to his family and friends...a special man not to be forgotten. --Carla Butler Eckart

Carla Eckart - September 25, 2014 at 02:14 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the tribute wall



Marge Herald Houser - September 24, 2014 at 08:47 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album *Jill Wasson Pierce*



Marge Herald Houser - September 24, 2014 at 08:43 PM

MH

“ 1 file added to the album *Jill and Ray "God Bless*



Marge Herald Houser - September 24, 2014 at 08:40 PM

TT

“ *Mr. Pierce was a brilliant man and a great teacher. I had him for both Chemistry and Physics. He had a great dry sense of humor and knew when to be funny and when to be serious. I talked to him several times after I graduated from Tri and he was always kind and cordial. My condolences to his family. Rest in peace Mr. Pierce - you've earned it.*

Tim Thompson - September 24, 2014 at 11:17 AM

LA

“ *Linda Allen lit a candle in memory of Ray A. Pierce*



Linda Allen - September 24, 2014 at 05:50 AM

KM

“ I have thought of Mr. Pierce and things that he said to me when I was in his high school physics class over the years. He was one of my favorite teachers. He took our class to Hanover and also to tour Marble Hill Nuclear Power Plant, an experience I never forgot. It was a tremendous opportunity to learn. He was often humorous. He said that a person could probably make a lot sweeping floors at the nuclear power plant when it was completed. ;-) When I was working as a grocery bagger, he started to talk to me about Solar Energy and ask what I was going to do with it. I didn't know much about it, but later when I did, I thought of him. He also talked about his work at GE in class. He asked us if we knew how many times you could turn on your turn signal before it stopped working. Every time, even today, that I turn my signal on in my car, I think of what he said. He was an inspiring teacher, nice person, and will always be remembered.

Karen Mondrush - September 23, 2014 at 09:35 PM

BM

“ A beloved teacher I never forgot. Thoughts & prayers to the family.

Barbara Meade



Barbara Meade - September 23, 2014 at 07:01 AM