



# Jack Elmer Pierson

SEP 8, 1930 - JAN 12, 2022



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## Jack Elmer Pierson

SEP 8, 1930 - JAN 12, 2022

**B**ig Rapids - Jack Elmer Pierson, 91, of Big Rapids, passed away peacefully on January 12, 2022, at his home.

He was born September 8, 1930, in Shelby, MI, the son of Elmer and Hattie (Kamstra) Pierson, and graduated from Shelby High School in 1948. Jack then served in the U.S. Air Force before being honorably discharged in 1955. He earned his Associate degree in pre-engineering from Muskegon Junior College in 1956, his Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering with honors (Major in Structural Engineering) from Michigan Technological University in 1959, and then went on to get his Master of Science in Civil Engineering (Major in Surveying and Mapping; Minor in Urban Transportation) from Purdue University in Indiana in 1969.

Jack had many jobs in his lifetime including, a student research assistant at Michigan Tech, a highway design engineer for the MDOT, a teaching assistant at Purdue University, a survey party chief, and self-employed as a consulting engineer and land surveyor. From 1962-1986 he was an instructor/assistant professor of surveying and civil technology at Ferris State University. After retiring from Ferris, he worked for the Kent County Department of Public Works as manager of solid waste/landfill operations, and ended his working years as president and part owner in the practice of engineering and surveying for Carter-Pierson, LLC.

From 1970-72 Jack served as a member of the Big Rapids Plan Board. From 1975-1980 he served (in order) as treasurer, vice-president, president-elect, president and past-president of the Michigan section of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Over several years he wrote many papers including, "Justice Cooley Annotated", "The Evaluation of Real and Physical Evidence". and "Astronomic Observations by the Time Angle Method" and presented them to the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors at their annual meetings.

Jack was a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers and a member of



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the Michigan Society of Professional Surveyors. He was licensed as a Professional Engineer and a Professional Surveyor in Michigan. In his later years, Jack developed a relationship with his Lord Jesus. The family is so grateful for Jack's caregivers, Sharen, Laurie, Elaine, and Cindy that spent his last few months with him.

On March 23, 1957, Jack married Paula Fecht, who preceded him in death in 2002.

He is survived by his daughter Polly (John) Byers; several nieces and nephews including special nieces and nephews, Jim and Nancy Schlaudt, and Steve and Patti Schlaudt; and his fur babies, Minnie and Shadow. He was also preceded in death by an infant son Paul in 1960, two sisters, and two brothers.

A private family service will be held in the spring. Jack will be laid to rest next to his wife Paula in the Evergreen Cemetery in Oceana County. Memorial contributions in his name may be made to ARC of Mecosta County or another animal rescue organization of choice. Care and arrangements are entrusted to the Mohnke Funeral Home in Big Rapids. Share a memory or express condolences at [mohnkefuneralhome.com](http://mohnkefuneralhome.com).



## Tribute Wall

**Jack Elmer Pierson**

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RH

**Randy Hepworth** posted:

Please accept my condolences for Jack's passing and your loss. I have always held Jack in my high regard both as an instructor at Ferris 1974-1975 and as a Professional Surveyor. He had a great influence in my career.

January 19 at 8:00 PM

PC

**Phillip Case** posted:

As a former student and 1979 graduate of FSU, I always enjoyed my talks with Jack and he helped to spur my interest in the survey profession. Even though at times we had different thoughts and opinions on the many different subject matters, as two hard he

January 19 at 8:00 PM

GB

**Gabor Barsai** lit a candle in honor of Jack.

Thank you for your kindness and hospitality, sharing your surveying stories and wisdom. You will be missed.

January 18 at 8:00 PM



DM

**David Mostrom** posted:

I was a student of Mr. Pierson in the early 1980's when attending Ferris. He was a wealth of information and able to teach his students based on real life experience. So glad to hear Mr. Pierson came to know the Lord. There is nothing more important

January 18 at 8:00 PM

WK

**Wes And Barb Knighy** posted:

John and Polly Our heartfelt sympathy to both of you. You were both wonderful and caring caregivers. So happy your dad came to Christ before his passing. God Bless you both. Prayers for your peace. Hugs to you

January 17 at 8:00 PM



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JF

**Jeff Fagerman** posted:

Definitely a memorable figure at Ferris in surveying. He left me with one very good quote regarding men wearing beards that I will never forget. I never knew he was also a Purdue graduate. He had a long life - you can't ask for much more.

January 17 at 8:00 PM

DF

**David Lee Fagerman** posted:

My condolences to Mr. Pierson's family. He was my instructor at Ferris State, which provided an excellent education for my future and an outstanding career in the Surveying Field. Sincerely, David Fagerman, PLS/RPLS Class of '81

January 17 at 8:00 PM

TF

**Tim Fagerman** posted:

Mr. Pierson as he was known to me when I went to Ferris (graduated 1985) left a lasting impression on so many people while an instructor at Ferris. Reading his obituary, I see that he touched many people's lives and was a great contributor to so many

January 17 at 8:00 PM

SH

**Sayed R Hashimi** posted:

I have very fond memories of Jack ever since I joined Ferris in 1975. I will always remember the celebration party that he and his beloved wife, Paula, hosted in their house on Division Street in Big Rapids, in honor of my first marriage in 1980. They had

January 17 at 8:00 PM

MW

**Marge Wetherell** posted:

Dear Polly and family. I am so sorry for the loss of your dear dad. Jack was a good surveyor friend of my husband, Bob Wetherell. Bob was a great admirer of Jack as a civil engineer and surveyor and always referred to him on advice and his expertise.

January 17 at 8:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

Join us in honoring Jack by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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