

**James H. Pierson** age 86 of Manistee, Michigan died early Sunday morning, October 20, 2013 at the Manistee County Medical Care Facility.

He was born September 27, 1927 in East Lake, Michigan, the son of the late Victor and Rose (Duby) Pierson. Jim graduated from Manistee High School with the class of 1945. He served in the United States Army near the end of World War II, having been stationed at Fort Lewis in Washington. After his release from the army, Jim attended Grand View College in Des Moines, Iowa and later transferred to Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo, Michigan where he received his Bachelor's degree as well as his Master's degree in education. His teaching career began in Frankfort, Michigan. He then joined the Manistee Public School System as a principal and teacher. The halls of Kennedy Elementary School were his home for many years. During the summer months Jim spent his time as a Ranger at Orchard Beach State Park. Jim was an avid hunter and fisherman, and a faithful fan of the Detroit Tigers. He was a member of St. Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee, a life member of the B.P.O.E. Elk's Lodge #250 of Manistee, and a member of "World's Worst Fishermen".

Jim was united in marriage to Lynette Raatz on January 27, 1968 at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee. Lyn, along with their children, Amy (Scott) Block of Kalamazoo, Carol (Brad) Phelps of Hersey, and Christopher (Nicole) Pierson of Allendale, along with grandchildren, Sydney Block, Jack Block, Kaden Phelps, Colin Knapp, Seth Phelps, Eli Phelps, Alexis Pierson, Reese Pierson, and Adrianna Pierson all survive him. Jim is also survived by his loving "in-law" family, Chris (Raatz) and John Grabowski, Jon and E.J. (Savoie) Raatz, Susan (Raatz) and Dr. Michael Rummel, Michael Raatz and Karen Nelson, Ellis and Judy (Topel) Raatz, and David and Aimee (Sharpe) Raatz. Many nieces, nephews and cousins also survive. They were all Jim's "pals" or "good buddies".

Mass from The Order of Christian Funerals will be celebrated Saturday, October 26, 2013 at 11: 00 AM at Saint Mary of Mount Carmel Shrine Church in Manistee with Reverend John McCracken celebrant. Burial will follow in Oak Grove cemetery.

The Evening Vigil Service will be prayed Friday evening, October 25, 2013 at 8:00 PM at the Herbert Funeral Home in Manistee where friends may begin calling Friday afternoon after 2:00 PM. The family will receive friends, at the funeral home on Friday from 2:00 to 4:00 PM and 7:00 to 9:00 PM and on Saturday morning from 10:00 AM until the time of leaving for the funeral mass at 10:40 AM.

Those wishing to remember Jim might consider a gift to St. Mary of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church. Envelopes will be available at the funeral parlor and the church.

**The Herbert Funeral Home of Manistee is in charge of funeral arrangements.**