



Henry "Pete" Pierson French, Jr. Ed.D.

November 21, 1934 - February 14, 2012

PITTSFORD: Died peacefully on February 13, 2012 at age 77. Predeceased by his parents Henry & Genevieve, his daughter Donna Lynn. Survived by his loving wife Beverly, his sons Henry "Peter" (Patti), William Dean (Cindy), John Douglas, daughter Susan DeGregory (Richard), grandchildren Charleston & Taylor French, Maxwell & Julia Mae DeGregory, brothers & sisters in-law, nieces & nephews, many dear friends & colleagues.

Pete was a 1953 graduate of Brighton High School. He served for two years in the US Army in Korea as a chaplain's assistant. Pete received his BA from the University of Delaware, two Masters degrees and a doctorate from the University of Rochester. He retired from MCC in 2006 after 41 years of dedicated teaching and service. Pete also held a joint appointment at the U of R. Pete was a proud member of Christ Episcopal Church in Pittsford. He served on numerous boards including the MCC Foundation and various Monroe County Library boards. Pete served as co-chair of the Brighton Schools Alumni Association. Through out his life, Pete believed in "giving back". In 2010 he received the Outstanding Volunteer Fundraiser Philanthropy Award for his efforts to raise money for the organizations he cared about. He also received the Harold Hacker Lifetime Achievement Award from the Rundel Library.

The family wishes to thank the wonderful staff at Wilmot Cancer Ctr. and Strong Memorial Hospital for their excellent care and support.

Friends may call Thursday, February 16th, 1-3, 6-8 PM at the funeral chapel (2305 Monroe Ave.). A Funeral Service will be held Friday, February 17th, 11 AM at Christ Episcopal Church, 36 South Main St., Pittsford, 14534. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made the MCC Foundation, 1000 E. Henrietta Rd., Rochester, NY 14623, Rundel Library Foundation, 115 South Ave., Rochester, NY 14604 or Christ Episcopal Church. To share a memory or photo of Pete visit www.anthonychapels.com.

Events

FEB **Visitation** 01:00PM - 03:00PM

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Anthony Funeral Chapels, Brighton
2305 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY, US, 14618

FEB **Visitation** 06:00PM - 08:00PM

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Anthony Funeral Chapels, Brighton
2305 Monroe Ave., Rochester, NY, US, 14618

FEB **Service** 11:00AM

17

Christ Episcopal Church of Pittsford
36 S. Main St., Pittsford, NY, US, 14534

Comments



“ I first met Dr. French in the fall of 1973, I was a young student in one of his history classes. I remember sitting in his History of Civilization course at Monroe Community College one early morning with my other classmates. He went into a passionate scolding and plea to his generally apathetic students at this early morning class.

He told us he would refuse to spoon feed us this course. We would need to participate and ask questions. He went on to tell us that he had the same ideas now as he had earlier in his life, but no would listen to him until he had earned his college degree.

When he was done with his diatribe you could of heard a pin drop. I looked around at my fellow students some of whom were just awakening, now many were sitting up straight and looking willing to participate.

That was over 39 years ago and I still remember that morning and speech. If Dr. French was in a movie he would of won a Academy Award for it. But it was no act, just Dr. French's passion for teaching his students shining through.

I had many teachers in life since then but none as memorable as Dr. Henry P. French.

He taught me to love to learn and work at it, and the rewards will come.

God Bless you and your Family Dr. French.

Sincerely,
Tom Rotolo
MCC Class of 1976

Tom Rotolo - February 16, 2012 at 06:26 PM



“ Ditto what Tom said. For me, 1973, also, was a long time ago but Dr. French's impact in my educational experience is still ever present. Presenting and mandating that we knew all the -ism(s) of the world was invaluable. May the Lord grant a blessed repose to His departed servant. May his memory be eternal.

Nadia

n. melnyk miles - February 19, 2012 at 02:13 AM



“ I will always remember how welcoming Pete was when I joined the faculty many years ago. Pete was from outside my department yet he took the time to engage me on several levels. Later in my career I was able to reconnect with Pete and facilitate the administration of the Endowed French Chair in Business Administration. Pete made a difference in many lives and will be missed. Jim Petrosino



“ Dear Bev and Family,

Pete was truly a gentleman and a scholar in every way, and his passing leaves a gap in many lives. He welcomed me warmly when I became Director of the Rochester Public Library, an action which I very much appreciated. I particularly enjoyed listening to Pete's stories and, yes, his puns (!) and his honoring of tradition is something we can all aspire to. I will miss him terribly, and intend to honor the tradition he and Mr. Hacker followed at the Reynolds Board meetings by having a martini at the next meeting! I hope his fellow board members will join me in honoring him in that way.

I am offering up good thoughts and devoted prayers for you and your family during this difficult time.

Very Sincerely,

Patty Uttaro

Patricia Uttaro - February 16, 2012 at 11:10 AM



“ Joan McCormack lit a candle in memory of Henry "Pete" Pierson French, Jr. Ed.D.



Joan McCormack - February 15, 2012 at 11:12 AM



“ To Bev and the entire family; So sorry for your loss. I remember Pete's smiling face and jovial nature going all the way back to Brighton Elementary School. He was a good guy and I will miss him. God Bless you. Peter Zonneville, BHS Class of 1952.

Peter M. Zonneville - February 15, 2012 at 10:47 AM



“ I was delighted to see Pete now and again here at Valley Manor - he, coming to the Friday men's group lunch and I, now a resident here. We enjoyed chatting about the 'old' days and even sharing some thoughts about the present days. He was a gifted teacher and I had fun saying that I knew Pete when he was a 'pup' in the teaching world! God bless.....Sincerely, Jann Packard

Jann G packard - February 15, 2012 at 09:54 AM



“ Dear Bev and Family- It has been a long time since we have seen you and "Pete", and sorry to learn that he had been so ill. Normand and I can still picture him on his daily walks on Smith Road and he always had a smile. Know that our thoughts are with all of you and remember all the good times you had together. Love, Judy and Normand Poisson

Judy and Normand Poisson - February 15, 2012 at 08:32 AM



“ So sorry to hear of Dr. French's passing. I was very fortunate to have been in his last class at MCC, where he was a most interesting, effective and entertaining teacher. Our education system would be greatly improved with more teachers like him.

Joan McCormack - February 15, 2012 at 11:11 AM