

Rupert Pearce

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Retired Chemistry Teacher Created Scholarship Fund

Rupert H. Pearce, 68, a former chemistry teacher in Bedford High School who set up a \$10,000 scholarship fund for outstanding science students, died Sunday in Toledo Hospital after an apparent heart attack.

Mr. Pearce, of 3018 Neadowbrook Dr., retired in 1975 after 15 years of teaching at the Monroe County school.

Two years earlier, he announced the establishment of the scholarship fund, which he said was an attempt to spare others “some of the rough time I had in attaining an undergraduate degree during the Great Depression.”

Mr. Pearce's attempts to enter medical school had been frustrated in the 1930's, and he hoped his scholarships would help “some worthy student reach the goal I never made.”

Two scholarships of \$350 each are awarded each year. Mr. Pearce had been helping to select the recipients.

A native of Missouri, he worked his way through the University of New Mexico by cutting grass, delivering newspapers, and driving a mail truck at \$10 a week.

Mr. Pearce started teaching at government schools on Indian reservations in the southwest, then came to northwest Ohio during World War II as a civilian employee at Erie Army Depot, near Port Clinton.

He later established the Friendly Dry Cleaners on West Delaware Avenue and the Friendly Coin Laundry on Upton Avenue.

Mr. Pearce returned to teaching about 25 years ago, serving first at Airport Community School, Carleton, Mich., before going to Bedford.

He was a deacon and past trustee of First Babbtist Church of Greater Toledo; past master of Sanford Collins Lodge, F&AM; past patron of Palestine Chapter of Eastern Star; and a member of other Masonic bodies.

Surviving are his wife, Virginia; daughter, Mrs. Carolyn Davis, and son, Jerry.

Services will be at 1:30 p.m Wednesday in the Foth-Dorfmeier Mortuary, Sylvania Avenue, where the body will be after 7 tonight. Masonic rites will be at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday in the mortuary.

The family requests that any tributes be in the form of contributions to the science scholarship fund, the church building fund, or the Eastern Star home.

Please make an entry in the [Guest Book](#) to offer your personal memories, recollections and experiences with Mr. Pearce. Others would really like to hear from you.

If you prefer, send any photos and thoughts to honor Mr. Pearce's memory to the webmaster and they will be added to these pages: [Email Webmaster](#)