



## Harold Lavon Pearson

November 27, 1932 - September 14, 2014

Harold Lavon Pearson, age 81, passed from this life to his heavenly home at 2:30 a.m. on September 14, 2014.

Funeral services will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, September 17, 2014, at Memory Chapel. Interment will be in the Myrick Cemetery. Rev. Robby Johnson and Rev. Stephen Taylor will officiate.

Harold was best known by his family as "Boe." He graduated from Myrick High School and Jones County Junior College. He held a bachelor's degree from Louisiana State University. He received a master's degree from the University of Southwestern Louisiana at Lafayette where he also completed doctorate course work. He also held a certificate from the University of Texas, Benz School of Floral Design. He served in the U.S. Army.

Harold was a retired teacher. He taught Advanced Chemistry and other disciplines in the Calcasieu Parish School system for approximately 30 years. He taught at Jones County Junior College when he returned to Laurel. He received several awards and recognitions for his teaching achievements. He was listed among Outstanding American Educators, as well as receiving the Louisiana State Teacher of the Year award and the National Teacher of the Year award. He held membership in the national and international Phi Delta Kappa for outstanding educators.

Harold's hobbies were flower arranging, decorating, collecting glassware and antiques. He enjoyed assisting many young brides in planning and directing their weddings. He was a member of Freedom Baptist Church where he

taught the Single Adult Sunday School Class and was the organizer and director of the Just Older Youth "Joy" Group for several years. He was known for his kindness, sense of humor, compassion, and a sensitive and caring spirit.

He is preceded in death by his parents, Jim and Flossie Harrison Pearson, and a sister-in-law Mae Pearson. He is survived by one brother, James Howard Pearson and one sister, Faye Pearson, both of Laurel; one step-brother Mack (Ann) Tucker of Laurel; one nephew James William Pearson of Ellisville; six step-nieces Linda (Al) Nolan of Erissen, GA; Christy Acord of Erissen, GA; Ann McDonald of Leander, TX; Pat Lakey of Dubuque, IA ; Phyllis (Bill) Wagnon and Amy (Michael) Blue both of Laurel and one step-nephew, Douglas Cox of Houston, TX. Also, several special cousins with whom he enjoyed celebrating the holidays and birthdays.

Pallbearers will be Joey Hosey, Issac Chang, Sam Gullett, Jackie Walters, Kyle Pitts, Al Nolan, Wayne Dawson and Josh Johnson.

Honorary pallbearers will be Ned Hinton, DVM; Grady Portie; Kelly Lawson; Roger Knight; Ralph Slaton; Vernon Brewer; Jacob Yang; Gladys Miller, MD; Carl Nabours, MD; Dan Holifield; Gary Staples; Vernell Watkins; and Mark Horne, MD. Visitation will be held from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. Tuesday, September 16, 2014 at Memory Chapel which is in charge of arrangements. To view and sign the family guest book, visit [www.memorychapellaurel.com](http://www.memorychapellaurel.com).

# Tribute Wall

TB

“ *Part 3 of 3: On Friday nights when we were bored, my crew of fellow A students used to drop by his house unannounced just to chat. He always welcomed us into his home. I don't really remember what we talked about, but to a one I can say that we really enjoyed swapping stories with this inspirational teacher of ours. He wasn't a "friend" to us - there was very clearly a boundary - and it was definitely a student-teacher relationship. No one ever crossed it. Mr. Pearson was a natural as a mentor of high-schoolers. Our nickname for him was "Uncle Harry." Even as seniors, we would drop by just to see how he was doing. What kind of man inspires others so? Mr. Pearson, never stopped believing in the goodness inherent in everyone one of us. The world needs more people like him. Rest in peace, good man, rest in peace.*

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**Tim Bohdan** - May 07, 2015 at 04:19 PM

TB

“ *Part 2 of 3: Mr. Pearson was also the faculty representative for Interact Club, a civic service organization sponsored by Rotary Club International. After a Christmastime fundraiser for Boys Village, a local orphanage, the club would convene back at his house as a group to count the money we collected, often a sum of \$1,500 or more. His career as a teacher and his faculty sponsorship of Interact Club were his callings in life, sort of like a priest to his church or a monk to his monastery. Mr. Pearson was just a good man who inspired his students to become better, not only in academics but in all aspects of life.*

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**Tim Bohdan** - May 07, 2015 at 04:18 PM

TB

“ Part 1 of 3: I was a student in “Special Chemistry” as a junior in 1979-80. He was the best teacher I ever had in life. I remember Mr. Pearson as an avuncular Mr. Rogers kind of guy - never swore, never criticized unfairly, was very religious (although privately - not in your face), and always reminded us of how special we were. He always expected the best of us. Thus, it was considered a huge mistake to do anything that would disappoint him. He truly inspired all of his students, and you never wanted to disappoint him. You literally avoided trouble in other classes or outside of school so that Mr. Pearson wouldn't hear the news and express his public disappointment in you. Occasionally, someone would get into trouble, and Mr. Pearson would tell the whole class unequivocally how disappointed he was in all of us, and how he expected so much more of us. The guy was so sincere that we knew he wasn't acting.

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**Tim Bohdan** - May 07, 2015 at 04:15 PM

BM

“ Mr. Pearson was the major mentor in my life in High School. He was the teacher-sponsor of the Interact Club. I was President. He guided me to my eventual salvation in Christ. I called him years later when my life finally turned around for the good. In the last couple of years we spoke relatively regularly. He was a continual encouragement to me. He will always have a fond place in my heart and memories until that day when we are reunited as brothers in Heaven. God bless you Ms. Faye.

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**Bryan Miller** - October 18, 2014 at 09:48 AM

MJ

“ Miriam John has sent this Expressions of Sympathy card.

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**Miriam John** - September 29, 2014 at 01:03 PM

DS

“ There are so many of us that remember Mr. Pearson as a great teacher and a loving person. We all have a small handful of folks who were so important to how we "turned out," and he was surely one of mine.

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**Dan Sonnier** - September 26, 2014 at 11:40 AM

BO

“ I was in Mr. Pearson's Special Chemistry class at LaGrange in 77/78. It was one of the most challenging, but rewarding classes I took in high school. I still use lessons learned there in my career as an environmental engineer. I'm sorry to hear of your loss. He is remembered and appreciated.

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**Bryan Oakley** - September 19, 2014 at 10:17 PM

TL

“ Harold Lavon Pearson

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**Ted Loftin** - September 19, 2014 at 06:32 PM

FN

“ Mr. Pearson taught me in Special Chemistry class at LaGrange High School in 1974-75 in Lake Charles. I thought very highly of him. With sincere sympathy, Frankie Anderson Norton

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**Frankie Anderson Norton** - September 19, 2014 at 12:27 PM

AR

Mr. Pearson taught me in his special chemistry class in 1968. Without a doubt he was one of the most competent, caring, and professional instructors that I have ever met or known in my life.

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**Anthony Richardson** - April 10, 2021 at 10:50 PM

LB

“ *Mr. Pearson was my homeroom teacher at LaGrange HS in 1959-1960. I have always smiled every time I have thought about him through the years. He was so pleasant and a gentleman. We had a mutual respect for each other because we knew we were both believers. He was a special man even to a high school sophomore who saw him only briefly each day. I have thankful for having known him. My condolences to his family.*

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**Louise Helms Bradley** - September 18, 2014 at 04:36 PM

KH

“ *I was one of Mr. Pearson's students at LaGrange High School 1973-74. What a wonderful teacher he was! He made learning chemistry SO MUCH FUN! I am a teacher now, and I pray that my students will have the wonderful memories of me that all Mr. Pearson's students have of him! I am truly blessed to have known him and had him as my teacher.*

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**Kay Babineaux Hobbs** - September 18, 2014 at 03:31 PM

TM

“ *Faye and Howard, my deepest sympathies. Mr. P, as I called Mr. Pearson, was so much more than my high school special chemistry teacher (LaGrange High School 1973) but he was also a mentor and friend. He has had a profound influence on my career and my life. I have been so blessed to have known him. I will be praying for him and you and your family.*

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**Theresa Miller** - September 18, 2014 at 01:16 PM

DB

“ I felt privileged to have Mr. Pearson as a special chemistry teacher in the early 70's. I still remember his "label factor" method for solving problems and taught the method to my own children. Mr. Pearson inspired me to become a chemical engineer and I am very grateful that he did. We were very lucky to have such a great teacher at LaGrange.

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**Debbie DeRouen Bohny** - September 18, 2014 at 01:10 PM

MH

“ I was sad to hear of Mr. Pearson's death, but thankful for his wonderful life. I only knew Mr. Pearson as my advanced chemistry teacher in high school in the earl 70s. As others have stated, he was a great educator, like many of the teachers at my high school. I am happy to hear that he had such a fulfilling, happy, productive life. Peace & healing to his family and friends.

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**Michael J. Hebert** - September 18, 2014 at 10:14 AM

CF

“ Mr Pearson was dearly beloved by all who knew him He inspired my love for chemistry and for teaching now Professor of Medicine at LSU Medical School New Orleans I loved his gentle spirit and compassionate heart looking forward to visiting with him when we meet again "up yonder"

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**Cathi Fontenot** - September 18, 2014 at 09:41 AM

TM

“ Faye and Howard, my deepest sympathies go out to you. So sorry I was not able to be at the funeral due to work. Mr. P., as I always called Mr. Pearson, was my special chemistry teacher in 1973 at LaGrange High School in Lake Charles, LA. He was the best teacher I ever had. Over the years after high school, Mr. P became much more than a teacher - he became a mentor and a family friend. Our family kept in contact with Mr. P over the years and we also became friends with Faye and Howard. Our lives have been forever touched by Mr. Pearson. I feel blessed to have known him. You will all be in my prayers.

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**Theresa Miller** - September 17, 2014 at 11:49 PM

AN

“ To Faye and family, My thoughts and prayers are with you. It was many years ago when I met Harold and Faye, and we haven't seen one another for so long. But you both had a lasting impression on me, through your loving Christian spirit. I know that Harold is now free of pain and illness and he is walking in Heaven with such joy !

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**Annette Greathouse Norman** - September 17, 2014 at 10:32 PM

DB

“ Faye, may you be comforted by the Lord and the many fond memories shared in this time of loss of such a great man - one with an amazing legacy. You were so wonderful the last years keeping in touch with many of us, his former students, and including us in special tributes to him. I will always remember Mr. Pearson as a man of character, a special man filled with wonder and fun. He used to laugh that great laugh at my surprised face following some of his assignments, and say, 'Get use to it, that's life'. The impact he made upon my life has endured through many of life's lessons. He was one-of-a-kind teacher, and a great man. I am so blessed to have known him, and to have learned and laughed with him.

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**Devaney Bourque** - September 17, 2014 at 08:24 PM

RW

“ To Faye and Howard and family... Our prayers and deep sympathy are with you. May the Lord comfort and keep you during these days of grief and sadness. We love you so this touches us and we know it isn't an easy time.

*Blessings and Strength, Elinda and Ron*

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**Ron and Elinda West** - September 17, 2014 at 04:12 PM

MP

“ Like many, I was a student in Mr. Pearson's Special Chemistry Class at LaGrange High School. He was a fine person who had a tremendous impact on my life. His program was groundbreaking and ahead of its time. Because of Mr. Pearson's influence, I became a science educator. I hope I have had just a portion of the influence on my students that he had on me and the many students with whom he worked. Although I had not spoken with him recently, we kept in touch for many years. Obviously, one of the goals of his Special Chemistry Program was to push students down the science pipeline into science –related careers. I believe he was successful in this endeavor. Many alumni of that program became engineers, physicians, researchers and health care professionals. I believe an additional goal of the Special Chemistry Program was to produce science teachers. I have always felt that all of us who were former students in that program were somehow a legacy to Mr. Pearson and his program and that somehow we were all carrying on and perpetuating something he began in a small Louisiana town a long time ago. I think he was aware of the direct impact he had made in the lives of so many. I hope he was aware of the long-term, generational impact. He really defined the essence of teaching---- intangible influence that certainly transcended chemistry instruction. I feel fortunate that he was a part of my life and education.

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**Mike Papadimitriou** - September 17, 2014 at 11:46 AM

BM

“ Our deepest sympathy to Faye, Howard and other family members and friends. We will remember Boe as a very gracious, thoughtful and caring Christian man. He rests safely now in the arms of Jesus.

Bill & Deborah McFetridge - September 17, 2014 at 10:10 AM

TN

“ Mr. Pearson was one of the best teachers I ever had. My most vivid recollection from 11th grade "Special Chemistry" (accelerated class) was his very first assignment on Day One: memorize the entire periodic table of elements, including their valences, and be prepared to take a test on it tomorrow. That was a brilliant life lesson - life is hard, get used to it! He will be missed.

Tom Niel - September 17, 2014 at 09:57 AM

RW

“ Mr. Pearson was truly loved at LaGrange High School. We are sad to learn of his death. I was a student in his chemistry class and my husband taught with him before he left LaGrange. Over the years, we have often recalled fond memories of him. Linda Spears Webb, class of 1962 R .L. Webb

R.L.& Linda Webb - September 17, 2014 at 09:16 AM

RR

“ I had the honor and privilege of having Mr. Pearson as my chemistry teacher while I was a student at JCJC. He loved to teach, and he loved his students. After some years had passed, I had the privilege to care for Mr. Pearson's father as a nurse at SCRMC. We reminisced about old times. He will be greatly missed. My thoughts and prayers are with his family during this difficult time.

Renee' Roddey - September 17, 2014 at 12:44 AM

MS

“ Harold will be greatly missed he was a very talented teacher in science and the bible. Harold was the best biology and chemistry teacher I ever had. He just knew how to make learning interesting and fun. He was a wonderful Christian friend and a caring parent to his sister Faye. I feel your loss Faye.

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**Marsha Brown Spear** - September 16, 2014 at 01:45 PM

MF

“ I took Special Chemistry under Mr. Pearson back in 1976. He was a great educator who cared about his students. His inspiration is the reason I and many others who took his class pursued careers in the sciences. He was a positive influence in many young lives.

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**Marc Fontenot** - September 16, 2014 at 11:01 AM

MW

“ Mr. Pearson was my Special Chemistry teacher in 1978. He challenged us and also made class so fun. I skated through Chemistry 101 and 102 in college because of all I learned in his class. What a wonderful, selfless and caring man. He was very special.

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**Marlene Walker** - September 16, 2014 at 10:24 AM

CG

“ I took Special Chemistry under him in 1967. He had a profound effluence on my life. I became Chemical Engineer as a result. He was by far the best instructor that I ever had through over twenty years of schooling. 2H5Q82

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**Clark Graybill** - September 15, 2014 at 09:24 PM

WV

“ *Condolences and Prayers go out to Mr. Harold's family. He was a caring educator and will be dearly missed.*

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**Wanda Vanlandingham** - September 15, 2014 at 07:04 PM

YG

“ *Faye and Family, Though I never met Harold but I could see him through you. The love of God is clearly demonstrated through your relationship, dedication, and ministries in Jesus' Kingdom. To God be the glory and God's blessings be with you all.*

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**Yunhan Gwo** - September 15, 2014 at 06:23 PM