

Paterson, Leonard

Leonard J. Paterson, 104, of Port Sanilac passed away on Friday, Aug. 24, 2001 at Autumnwood of Deckerville. He was born on April 20, 1897, in Applegate, the son of Edmund F. and Elizabeth Adeline (Smith) Paterson. He married Virginia M. D'Hondt on Feb. 16, 1946, in Detroit. She passed away Aug. 10, 1997. He then married Florence Carver in 1998. Mr. Paterson was a 1917 graduate of Croswell High School and graduated from Detroit College of Law in 1927. When he retired from the law practice in 1999 at the age of 102, Leonard was the oldest practicing lawyer in Michigan and one of the oldest in the United States. He was the Sanilac County Prosecuting Attorney from 1932-1937. He was elected State Senator for two terms, representing the Twentieth District from 1938-1941. After Pearl Harbor, he resigned his Senate Seat in 1941 to enlist and complete basic infantry training in the United States Army. He served until 1945. He then returned to Sandusky and practiced law until 1999. He was active in civic affairs being a charter and founding member of the Sandusky Lions Club, Huron Shores Golf Club, and McKenzie Memorial Hospital. He was a member of the board of directors at Exchange State Bank for over 20 years. Mr. Paterson was a member of the Applegate United Methodist Church. His Masonic activities included the Croswell Blue Lodge, Sanilac Shrine Club, Lexington Commandry and a past grand commander of the Michigan Grand Commandry of the State of Michigan. At age 93, he became the administrator of the Ethel Collar Foundation, which has given over one million dollars in scholarships to students in Sanilac and Tuscola counties. In 1997, he was honored by the Arch Diocese of Saginaw and received the McArdle Award for his lifetime legal and charitable contributions. He is survived by his wife, Florence Carver Paterson, Albion; one son, John S. Paterson and his wife, Mary Paula, of Sandusky; grandsons, Neil B. Hayes, Stephen L. Paterson, John Paul Paterson, and James Clark Paterson, all of Chicago, Ill.; several nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by two sisters, Lillian Chester and Hannah Paterson; and four brothers, William, E. Maurice, J. Harry, and G. Edmund Paterson. Services will be conducted at 1:30 p.m. today at the Applegate United Methodist Church. Pastor Richard Cheffey of Deckerville and Pastor Emerson Arntz of Applegate will officiate. Burial will be in Washington Township Cemetery in Carsonville. Visitation will take place from 12:30 p.m. until the time of service today at the church. The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations be made to the Applegate United Methodist Church or the United Hospice of Sanilac County. Arrangements are being handled by Hacker Funeral Parlors of Sandusky.