

Gardner, James B.

James B. Gardner, 67, of Long Beach, Mississippi and a former resident of Bad Axe, died Sunday, November 27, 2005, at the Hospice House in Lansing. He was born September 22, 1938 in Grand Rapids to the late Rev. William B. and Helen Gardner. On October 8, 1988, he was united in marriage to Victoria Brandon. After graduating from Central High School in Traverse City in 1956, Mr. Gardner trained as a medical laboratory specialist in the U.S. Air Force, where he served from 1956-1960. He then attended Michigan State University, where he graduated in 1964 with a B.A. in hospital management. He was employed with the St. Lawrence Hospital in Lansing from 1960 to 1966, where he worked as a laboratory technician and registrar. From 1966 to 1970, he worked at Saginaw General Hospital and from 1971 to 1975, he worked at Hackley Hospital in Muskegon, both in the position of assistant administrator. From 1975 to 1980, he was employed with Schoolcraft Memorial Hospital in Manistique as an administrator. He then went on to work at Huron Memorial Hospital in Bad Axe. After his retirement as President and CEO in 2000, he spent his retirement in Long Beach, Mississippi, where he lived for two years prior to Hurricane Katrina. Mr. Gardner was a past president of the Bad Axe Rotary Club, previous board member of Verona Hills Golf Club, the Bad Axe School District Improvement Team and previous coordinator of the Thumb Area Hospital Improvement Team. He served as a Chairman of the Hospital Council of East Central Michigan. He was a previous board member of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Board of Trustee and Treasurer of Insight, Inc. Mr. Gardner also served as chairman of the Michigan Hospital Association and as a board member and vice chairman of the Michigan Hospital Association Insurance Company. In 2001, he received the Resolution of Meritorious Service award, the highest accolade from the Michigan Hospital Association, for outstanding contributions in the healthcare industry. Due to his love for the game of golf, he worked for the bridges Golf Course in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, up until his illness. He is survived by his wife, Victoria, of St. Johns; one daughter, Pamela Foster and her husband, John, of St. Johns; one granddaughter, Lissa Foster; one brother, David Gardner and his wife, Lois, of Portage; nieces, Pat Pearson and her husband, Trevor, of Bensalem, Pennsylvania, and Elaine Holland and her husband, Doug, of Florissant, Missouri; and nephews, Steve Gardner and his wife, Cheryl, of Apopka, Florida, and Blake Brandon, of Waterford. He was preceded in death by his sister-in-law, Joan Gardner. A memorial service will be take place at 11 a.m. on Friday, December 2, 2005, at the First Baptist Church in Bad Axe; the Rev. Jay Barsaleau will officiate. There will be visitation, prior to the memorial service, from 9 to 11 a.m. at the church. Arrangements are being handled by MacAlpine Funeral Home in Bad Axe. Memorial contributions, in memory of James B. Gardner, may be made to the Humane Society South Mississippi, 13756 Washington Avenue, Gulfport, Mississippi, 39503, and to the Hospice House of Mid-Michigan, Sparrow Foundation, P.O. Box 30480, Lansing, Michigan 48909.