

Robert L. Pearl

Posted: Friday, November 9, 2001 12:00 am

Jan. 7, 1937 - Nov. 5, 2001

NORTH LIBERTY - Robert L. Pearl, 64, of North Liberty, formerly of Keokuk, died Monday evening, Nov. 5, 2001, at his home.

He was born on Jan. 7, 1937, in Louisiana, Mo., the son of Herbert S. and Frances N. Grimmert Pearl. He married Henrietta E. Dove on May 21, 1961, in Denver, Colo. She preceded him in death on Nov. 12, 1982.

Survivors include: nieces and nephews, Herbert M. Pearl, Jr. of San Jose, Calif., Serenda Corrathers of Davenport, Gary L. Pearl of Kansas City, Mo., and Nancy Pearl-Scott of St. Paul, Minn.; two sisters-in-law, Grace Ellen Graves of Denver and Bessie L. Pearl of Davenport; a special friend, Nancy Pounds of Winfield; several great-nieces and nephews; and cousins.

He was also preceded in death by his parents and a brother, Herbert M. Pearl.

He had lived most of his life in Keokuk, having moved to Iowa City in 1983.

Mr. Pearl was a self employed insurance agent.

He graduated from the University of Iowa in 1960 with bachelors of arts degrees in geography/business.

He served on the board of directors of the Johnson County I Club, on the board and was past president of the Keokuk Community Schools, on the board and was past president of Area 16 Educational Agency, board of trustees and past vice president of Southeast Iowa Community College in Keokuk and Burlington, board of directors of Keokuk Chamber of Commerce and the United Way, board of directors of the Keokuk City Planning Commission, board of directors of the Citizens Utility Board, board of directors of the Low Rent Housing Agency, board of directors and past president of the Mental Health Center of Lee County, board of directors of YWCA and the YMCA in Keokuk.

He was appointed by Gov. Robert Ray to the State and Local Task Force for the First District of Iowa. He was appointed by Gov. Tom Vilsack to State and Local Government Juvenile Task Force Committee.

The U. of I. women's softball diamond was recently renamed Robert L. Pearl Field. He was known as "Mr. Hawkeye" to many in the Iowa City area.

He was the first black pitcher to ever graduate from a Big Ten school and he went on and played

professional baseball for the St. Louis Cardinals farm team in Estherville.

He served two terms with the National Iowa Varsity Club board of directors and was president from 1989 to 1990 and was the Letterwinner of the Year Award winner.

Mr. Pearl was a member of the First Baptist Church in Iowa City.

Funeral services are at noon Monday, Nov. 12, at Greaves Mortuary, Keokuk, with the Rev. Bartlett L. Wilkerson officiating.

Burial will be in Oakland Cemetery, Keokuk.

Friends may call at the funeral home after 4 p.m. Sunday with family meeting friends from 5 to 8 p.m.

A memorial has been established to be used at the discretion of the family.