



Garth Barton Pitske

November 30, 1925 - October 1, 2011

Garth Barton Pitsker 30 November 1925 – 29 September 2011

Garth Pitsker, 85, passed away unexpectedly at his home in Hudson, New York on Thursday evening, September 29, 2011. He was born and raised in White Plains, New York, the third son of John Raynold Pitsker and Virginia Alethea Pitsker nee Miller. Garth began playing the piano at age 10, and began playing the organ for his church when he was 12. Following graduation from White Plains High School and one year at Columbia University, Garth was drafted into the Marines in Feb. 1944 and was ultimately stationed at Quantico, as music director in the Chaplains Corps. Following his discharge in July 1946 with the rank of corporal he enrolled at Peabody Institute of Baltimore, MD from which he received his first degree in 1950, but stayed on to receive a second degree, in 1952.

Garth was a professional organist and concert pianist for many years before becoming a data processing expert specializing in accounting systems. He lived in New York City until his retirement in 1991. He then moved to Delhi, in upstate New York, where he bought a small house and rented rooms to college students. In March 2000, at the urgings of friends, he moved to Hudson, New York, becoming involved with musical community. He later became a member of Christ Church and his musical talent could often be heard there.

Garth had a wide and devoted circle of friends and family. He was passionate about music, devoted to theater, and appreciative of good food. He enjoyed travel, and spent considerable time in Europe as a musician.

Garth is survived by his brothers John Raynold "Ray" Pitsker, Jr. of Evergreen, CO; Robert "Bob" Pitsker (Susie) of Conifer, CO; Peter "Pete" Pitsker (Polly) of Gardnerville, NV; and William "Bill" Pitsker of Petaluma, CA; his sister Marilyn Shreve of Wellington, NV; as well as numerous nephews and nieces. He was pre-deceased by his parents and his brother Cooper Knight Pitsker.

A Requiem Mass will be held at 10:00 am on Saturday, October 15, 2011 at Christ Church Episcopal, 431 Union Street, Hudson.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Christ Church Episcopal Memorial Fund.