



Chester J Potempa

July 12, 1929 - December 10, 2025

Chester J. Potempa, loving husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather, passed away at 7:10 a.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025 at the age of 96. A lifetime resident of San Pierre, Indiana, he passed away peacefully in his sleep at his family farm with his wife and children at his side. Chester was born on their farm in San Pierre on July 12, 1929 as the youngest of nine children of Frank and Mary (Soprich). He attended San Pierre High School, as he watched his three older brothers go off to fight during World War 2 and he stayed home to help his parents run the farm. On Sept. 5, 1953 he married Peggy Green at Sorrowful Mother Catholic Church in her neighboring hometown of Wheatfield, Indiana. He served his country in the U.S. Army Reserves from November 1950 until his honorable discharge in November 1959. In addition to his love of farming, Chester enjoyed a long career in truck transportation for 38 years at Jack Gray Transport until he retired in 1994. He was a proud member of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters Local 142 and the American Legion Post 92 in North Judson, Indiana. Chester was honored with numerous safe driving honors and trophies throughout his decades on the roads and highways.

Chester is survived by wife Peggy and their five children Carol Widner of Monterey, Indiana, Tom Potempa of San Pierre, David Potempa of Lima, Ohio, Pam Robinson of Mishawaka, Indiana and Philip Potempa of San Pierre as well as five grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. He is preceded in death by his parents Frank (1951) and Mary (1986), all his older siblings Walter

(1977), John (1982), Lillian (1994), Joseph (1995), Judy (2005), Lottie (2018), Wanda (2021) and Loretta (2020) as well as beloved daughter-in-law Linda (Tom), son-in-law Bill (Carol) and grandson Thomy. Chester loved to spend his time outside working in his expansive vegetable gardens, caring for the vast lawns surrounding the family farm and woodworking hobbies, especially making his custom birdhouses. He was a devoted member of All Saints Catholic Church in San Pierre.

Service arrangements are being handled by O'Donnell Funeral Home, 302 Lane St. in North Judson, Indiana with a visitation period from 3 to 7 p.m. CST Friday, Dec. 19 and a Catholic Rosary recited at 6:30 p.m. at the funeral home. Visitation continues at 10 a.m. CST Saturday, Dec. 20 with viewing at All Saints Catholic Church, 201 W. Eliza St. in San Pierre prior to the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. CST followed by a private interment at All Saints Catholic Cemetery in San Pierre.

Cemetery Details

All Saints Catholic Cemetery

San Pierre, IN 46374

Previous Events

Visitation

DEC **19**. 3:00 PM - 7:00 PM (CT)

O'Donnell Funeral Home, Inc.
302 Lane Street
North Judson, IN 46366
(574) 896-2149

Visitation

DEC **20**. 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM (CT)

All Saints Catholic Church
201 W Eliza St
San Pierre, IN 46374-9582
(219) 828-4281

Mass of Christian Burial

DEC **20**. 11:00 AM (CT)

All Saints Catholic Church
201 W Eliza St
San Pierre, IN 46374-9582
(219) 828-4281

Tribute Wall

CN

“ Catherine N. purchased the Enchanted Cottage for the family of Chester J Potempa.



Catherine N. - December 20, 2025 at 02:05 PM

CN

“ Catherine N. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

Catherine N. - December 20, 2025 at 02:05 PM

NM

“ Nancy M. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

Nancy M. - December 20, 2025 at 08:22 AM

GS

“ Gayle, Kolt and Arielle Stark purchased the Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum for the family of Chester J Potempa.



Gayle, Kolt and Arielle Stark - December 18, 2025 at 12:38 PM

GS

“ *Gayle, Kolt and Arielle Stark planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.*

Gayle, Kolt and Arielle Stark - December 18, 2025 at 12:38 PM



“ *Peaceful White Lilies Basket was purchased for the family of Chester J Potempa.*



December 18, 2025 at 10:41 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Chester J Potempa.*



December 17, 2025 at 06:48 PM

SM

“ *Susan Medved purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Chester J Potempa.*



Susan Medved - December 17, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ Susan Medved planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

Susan Medved - December 17, 2025 at 04:14 PM



“ Large Basket Garden was purchased for the family of Chester J Potempa.



December 17, 2025 at 10:51 AM



“ Love, Your Friends at the Post-Tribune planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

Love, Your Friends at the Post-Tribune - December 17, 2025 at 10:51 AM



“ Karen Billick lit a candle in memory of Chester J Potempa



Karen billick - December 16, 2025 at 07:42 PM



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Chester J Potempa.



December 16, 2025 at 07:40 PM



“ Donna K. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

Donna K. - December 16, 2025 at 07:40 PM



“ Dear Peggy and family.
I send my hugs, eaters and deepest sympathy to you and your family. I loved spending time with Chet and hearing the stories about Chet and my dad (Jim Pilar) when they were kids. It was an honor to know him as well as his family.
Denice (Pilar) Boyce

Denice Boyce - December 16, 2025 at 05:11 PM



“ Sanjin, Maja, Aco, & Jela purchased the Country Basket Blooms for the family of Chester J Potempa.



Sanjin, Maja, Aco, & Jela - December 16, 2025 at 02:18 PM

BS

“ Dear Peggy and Phil,
May you feel the loving care of Jesus & the Holy Family at this time.
My heart is with you as I offer prayers for the repose of his soul.
May we all eventually share together - the beatific vision.

Bernadette Shonka - December 16, 2025 at 12:21 PM

PC

“ Pat and Carolyn purchased the Country Basket B
looms for the family of Chester J Potempa.



Pat and Carolyn - December 16, 2025 at 10:27 AM

PC

“ Pat and Carolyn planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J
Potempa.

Pat and Carolyn - December 16, 2025 at 10:27 AM

LM

“ Luke Miiller purchased the Enchanted Cottage for
the family of Chester J Potempa.



Luke Miiller - December 15, 2025 at 07:18 PM

SR

“ Scott and Robin purchased the Basket of Memories for the family of Chester J Potempa.



Scott and Robin - December 15, 2025 at 02:32 PM

SR

“ Scott and Robin planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

Scott and Robin - December 15, 2025 at 02:32 PM



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Chester J Potempa.



December 15, 2025 at 01:21 PM

DK

“ David and Mary Beth Kominiak planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

David and Mary Beth Kominiak - December 15, 2025 at 01:21 PM

TF

“ *The Swinehart Family purchased the Divine Peace Bouquet for the family of Chester J Potempa.*



The Swinehart Family - December 15, 2025 at 10:06 AM



“ *Serene Retreat was purchased for the family of Chester J Potempa.*



December 15, 2025 at 09:34 AM

AF

“ *Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. May your memories bring you comfort. Your father will be in your hearts and never forgotten. God Bless*

Andello Family - December 14, 2025 at 08:01 PM

MP

“ *Deepest sympathies to Peg and the entire family 🙏🙏🙏❤️ Chet was a wonderful man in so many ways. So much to listen to!!! Prayers and hugs, Larry and Margie Pixey*

Margie Pixey - December 14, 2025 at 06:11 PM

MA

Phil our condolences, my dad was also 96, when he passed. It's never easy, take care. Sincerely Maria Gomez and family.

MariaAnzo-Gomez - December 14, 2025 at 07:02 PM

AD

“ Ann D. planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

Ann D. - December 14, 2025 at 04:27 PM

JT

“ Joe and Nancy Trama purchased the Basket Full of Wishes for the family of Chester J Potempa.



Joe and Nancy Trama - December 14, 2025 at 03:40 PM

JT

“ Joe and Nancy Trama planted a [Memorial Tree](/store/Product.aspx?ProductId=4518) in honor of Chester J Potempa.

Joe and Nancy Trama - December 14, 2025 at 03:40 PM

MK

“ Marge Kullerstrand lit a candle in memory of Chester J Potempa



Marge Kullerstrand - December 14, 2025 at 03:35 PM