



**Buchanan Community Schools
Hall of Fame
2024**

Contributions to Society

Donald R. Pears



Donald "Don" Roe Pears distinguished himself through service in the military, the educational system, and political affairs representing our local citizens with dedication. A Buchanan High School alumnus, he reached the highest political office ever attained by a graduate in the school's history. Don Pears first took office as the youngest Register of Deeds in Berrien County in 1927, serving until 1932. In the 1940s, he served as County Clerk for six years. His legislative career included terms in the Michigan House of Representatives from 1951-1962 and 1965-1970, where he was the 56th Speaker from 1959 to 1962. Active in organizations like the Veterans of Foreign Wars, AMVETS, the Reserve Officers Association, and several fraternal orders, he was elected national commander of the Veterans of World War I at 89. A guest speaker at Buchanan High School, he educated students about military and government roles, championing the right for 18-year-olds to vote. Don Pears passed away in July 1992, just shy of his 93rd birthday, leaving a legacy of service and dedication.