

Charles J. Patterson cherished Nebraska

■ The Massachusetts construction firm executive was a Kearney native who grew up in Gretna and served in World War II.

By JANE PALMER

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

World War II interrupted Charles J. Patterson's college education.

He served as a Navy pilot on carrier war ships in the Pacific.

But when he was done, he returned to the University of Notre Dame and graduated with honors in 1947.

The Nebraska native worked for Perini Corp. in Framingham, Mass., for 44 years, many of them as vice president for corporate relations. The company built large projects such as highways and the Prudential Center in Boston.

He retired to Palm Gardens, Fla., in 1988, and died there last



**Charles J.
Patterson**

month of congestive heart failure. He was 84. Funeral services were at St. Patrick Catholic Church in Gretna.

"He was a lovely man," said brother Ben Patterson of Omaha. "He didn't use profanity. He was thoughtful of others and had a very high degree of ethics. He preferred Nebraska to almost anyplace. Chuck used to come back every year, without fail."

Patterson was born in Kearney, Neb., and attended grade school and high school in Gretna. The Navy awarded him the Silver Star for gallantry in action in the Philippines. His plane was shot down while returning from a bombing mission over Manila Bay, and he was rescued at sea.

Other survivors include his wife of 60 years, Barbara, of Palm Beach Gardens; daughter Anne Zebrowski, Natick, Mass.; sister Rosemary Johansson, Elmwood Park, Ill.; and one grandson.