

## **James Mortensen, 87**

**July 16, 1923 - Sept. 8, 2010**

**MEDFORD, OR** — James M.

Mortensen, FSA (87), formerly of Leawood, KS, passed away peacefully on September 8, 2010, in the Rogue Valley Manor in Medford, OR. James was born in Shelby County July 16, 1923. He spent his early years helping on the family farm until his father passed away when James was 16 years old. James enlisted and served in the Army for 3 years during the end of World War II. He graduated with B.A. and M.S. degrees from the University of Iowa in actuarial science. He completed his Fellowship in the Society of Actuaries in 1959. He worked at Security Life & Accident Co. in Denver, CO, where he met his wife, Donna.



James married Donna in 1953. James and Donna moved to New York City in 1954 when James began working for AT&T as Senior Actuary. James and Donna returned to the Midwest to be closer to their families when James started working for Kansas City Life Insurance in 1960. At his retirement in 1986 he was Executive Vice-President and a member of the Board of Directors. He was instrumental in Kansas City Life's acquisition of the Sunset Life Insurance and National Reserve Life Insurance Companies, and served as a member of the Board of Directors of both companies. After his retirement, Jim and Donna enjoyed life in Bend, OR where Jim enjoyed many outdoor activities including hiking, fishing and cross country skiing. He was contacted by the North America Reinsurance Company in 1993 to participate in the "International Executive Service Corp." program and worked as a consultant in Indonesia. He was slowed by a brain stem stroke in 1994 and had to give up biking and cross country skiing due to his balance issues. Jim and Donna chose to move to the Rogue Valley Manor in Medford, OR in 1998 where he enjoyed participating in the many activities available to them. Despite his limitations with age and physical changes Jim retained his smile and was well liked by his caregivers. All who knew him thought it was an honor to know him and he will be solely missed.

Jim was preceded in death by his son, Jim; his parents, Martin and Elsie Mortensen; and sister, Ila Custer. He leaves his wife, Donna, of Medford, OR; daughter, Amy Mortensen Carr of Overland Park, KS; grandchildren, Rebecca and Daniel Carr of Overland Park, KS; and his sister, Marge (Ralph) Hansen of Harlan.