



James Joseph McGovern

January 9, 2015

McGovern, James Joseph age 91, of Edina, died January 9, 2015. He was preceded in death by son-in-law, Rick Hagen; and daughter-in-law, Shirley Berney; brother, Tom McGovern Jr., and parents, Anastacia and Thomas H. McGovern. He is survived by his wife, Mary G. McGovern; children, Jim Jr. (Billie Bechold), Kathy, Pat (David Cossi), John and Nancy; grandchildren, Kayla, Grace and Jack, Colin, Megan and Aaron, Dan Berney, Criste Cossi (Rob Jones), and Dom Cossi (Addi Jadin). Born in La Crosse, Wisconsin in 1923, Jim loved small town life and the beauty of the Mississippi river bluffs. An altar boy, Eagle Scout, and athlete he excelled in academics and graduated at 16 years of age. In 1941 he joined the Army and studied engineering at Carnegie Mellon University before embarking to Europe as part of Patton's Third Army campaign in France and Germany. He earned a business degree at the University of Minnesota while playing defensive tackle for coach, Bernie Bierman and the Gophers' football team. He married Mary Malone, the love of his life in 1951. He joined Marsh and McLennan Companies, Inc. where his initial work in marine insurance led him to frequently travel the Mississippi River to New Orleans where he developed his passion for jazz. He always enjoyed his work and loved solving problems and working with people. As his career continued his work frequently took him to New York, Western Europe, and Canada, travel opportunities he greatly enjoyed. He retired as a managing director from Marsh and McLennan in 1988. Jim will be deeply missed and his spirit lives on in all of us whose lives

he touched with humor, kindness and wisdom. Mass of Christian burial Friday, January 16, 11:00 a.m. with visitation one hour beforehand at Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church, 5071 Eden Ave., Edina (952-929-3317). Private interment at Fort Snelling National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please make a gift to the "University of Minnesota Foundation: Alzheimer's Research (Grossman Center)", or to the donor's choice. Washburn - McReavy Edina Chapel (952) 920-3996