Merritt Charles Ludwig

Merritt C. Ludwig, 93, of Sarasota, Fla., and formerly of our area died on March 7, 2017.

No visitation is planned. A memorial occasion will be scheduled for a later date. The National Cremation Society is in charge of arrangements with interment at the National Cemetery in Sarasota.

He was born Dec. 20, 1923, in Waterloo, Iowa, and became a Sarasota resident in 1984 while maintaining a second home in Arlington, Va. His entire career was in administrative positions in higher education, including 11 years as vice president of Grinnell College, three years as vice president of the University of Iowa, and 14 years as senior vice president of the College Entrance Examination Board, where in 1984 he ended his board career as executive vice president. His early career included four years on the staff of Iowa State University’s WOI-TV, the first educational TV station in the U.S. From 1969 to 1971, he served as Ford Foundation advisor to the President of Haile Sellassie I University in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

He received his B.A. and M.A. degrees from the University of Iowa. During World War II, he was a combat infantryman with 3-1/2 years of active duty in the Army, including combat in Europe and occupation duty in Japan. He was a member and a former deacon of the First Congregational United Church of Christ, Sarasota; and former member of the Sarasota Yacht Club and also of Pelican Cove Yacht Club, where he served for six years, including two as president. He served as officer and director on the boards of five condominiums and resident associations. Other volunteer activities have included Historic Spanish Point, Habitat for Humanity, Resurrection House, Senior Friendship Center, and as an English tutor for immigrants in New York City, Arlington, and Sarasota. He and his wife were world travelers having visited all seven continents, and more than 145 countries. At his death he was a resident of The Fountains at Lake Pointe Woods in Sarasota, where he had served as council officer and president of the Residents Association.

Survivors include his wife of more than 72 years, Mary Culbertson Ludwig; a daughter, Susan L. Parker, Arlington, Va.; a son, Dr. Scott C. Ludwig, Greensboro, Ga.; a sister, Norma J. Holtgrew, Upland, Calif.; five grandchildren; and eight great grandchildren.

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