

WALTER F. PROBST

1915 - 1994

Walter F. Probst, 79 of Lake Arrowhead, CA, former Pigeon native, passed away Friday, Sept. 30 at Eisenhower Medical Center in Rancho Mirage, CA, following a long illness.

A resident of Lake Arrowhead, he maintained a winter residence at Eldorado Country Club in Indian Wells, CA.

A native of Pigeon, Mr. Probst graduated from Wayne State University prior to receiving a law degree from the University of Michigan, where he was a member of the Order of Coif, the highest honorary law society for scholastic achievement.

After practicing law in Detroit, Mr. Probst joined Essex Wire Co. in Fort Wayne, IN, in 1942 as director of labor relations and was named President in 1959. He became chairman and chief executive officer and served until the company was acquired by United Technologies, Inc. He then served on the Board of Directors of the conglomerate. Mr. Probst was named to the Eisenhower Medical Center Board in 1970. He contributed the medical center's first professional building, which bears his name and was dedicated in 1972.

In addition to his affiliation with Essex, he served as director of Lincoln National Bank in Fort Wayne, IN and American Fletcher Bank in Indianapolis, a trustee for the University of Southern California, on the board of the Foundation for International Ice Skating Advancement in Palm Desert, CA. He is Past President of Thunderbird Country Club in Rancho Mirage, CA and of the Bob Hope Chrysler Classic.

Mr. Probst is survived by his wife, Carol, a former star of Shipstad and Johnson's Ice Follies; a son, Gary Probst of Fort Wayne, IN; daughter Sharon Boothe of Rapidan, VA; two stepdaughters, Terri Lang of Lake Arrowhead, CA and Cindy Lang of Santa Barbara, CA; five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

A memorial service was held at Hope Lutheran Church in Palm Desert, CA on Monday, Oct. 3 with burial at Desert Memorial Park, Cathedral City, CA.

The family requests donations to the Eisenhower Medical Center, 39000 Bob Hope Drive, Rancho Mirage, CA, 92270 or the Foundation for International Ice Skating Advancement, P.O. Box 13166, Palm Desert, CA, 92260.