

The JOURNAL- STANDARD

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William J. Mertins

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FREEPORT - William J. Mertins, 85, died Thursday, Dec. 20, 2007, at home.

Born May 23, 1922, in Freeport, son of Arthur and Florence (Merck) Mertins.

He graduated from Freeport High School and entered the U.S. Army in 1942. He served in the European theater until 1946.

William attended the University of Denver where he studied accounting and business. For seven years he worked at Northwestern Bank in Minneapolis and then moved to Superior, Wis., and managed the Faulk Paper Company.

Bill returned to Freeport in 1968 and joined Freeport Metal Specialties as treasurer, before retiring in 1988. He liked to say "he retired on Tuesday and the next day was on the course golfing with his buddies." He and his wife wintered 17 years in Florida where he could play golf every day.

Bill was a 60-year member of the Elks Lodge where he advanced to Exalted Ruler. He loved to play cards with his friends in the P.A.G. poker club. A lifelong Green Bay Packers fan, he would spend Sunday afternoon cheering his team.

He is survived by his wife, Barbara; sister-in-law, Sandy Mertins of Boca Raton, Fla.; niece, Susan Mertins-Jones of Boca Raton; nephews, John and Bill of New Orleans, La., and Jim of Reno, Nev.

Preceding him in death were his parents; brother, John; and sister, Mary.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday at Burke-Tubbs Funeral Home with Monsignor P. William McDonnell officiating. Burial of cremains will be at Oakland Cemetery.

Visitation will be held from 10 a.m. until time of service at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, a memorial fund has been established for FHN Hospice.

Visit www.burketubbs.com to sign the online guest book.

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