JAMES H. RUPP, JR., SMA PG - ’37

(1918 – 1998)

Jimmy Rupp was born on May 17th, 1918, in Kearny, NJ, and graduated from Kearny High school in 1936. He attended Staunton Military Academy (SMA) as a post graduate and played varsity basketball and was on the Shrapnel (year book) Staff prior to graduating in 1937.

Jimmy studied economics and business at Monmouth College in Monmouth, IL, and graduated from Monmouth in 1941. He was listed in Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

James married Florence C. Reincke in 1944; however, she preceded him in death.

In World War II, James was an officer in the U.S. Navy serving as a sub-chaser captain, and, in the Korean War, he was an inspector and instructor and became a Lieutenant Commander.

James H. Rupp, Jr**.,** was a three-term mayor of Decatur, Illinois (1966-76) and a former Illinois State Senator from the 51st District (1976-86). During the 80th General Assembly, Mr. Rupp served on the Insurance, Appropriations I, Local Government, and Transportation Committees; and as a State Senator, Mr. Rupp worked to improve roads, lower State income taxes and sales taxes, and to find ways to continue to use Illinois coal in energy programs.

Mr. Rupp was a member of Rotary International, VFW Post 99, the Decatur Shriners Club, and American Legion Post 105; he was a charter and active member of Woodland Chapel Presbyterian Church; he was a partner and later the sole owner of the Creighton-Jackson Insurance Agency in Decatur.

James H Rupp and died on September 30th, 1998 at the age of 80. James was buried at North Fork Cemetery in Decatur, Illinois.

Source: Illinois 90_HR0475 17 May 1998 and *ilga.gov/legislation/.../900HR0652LV.ht.*Illinois General Assembly
Edits by Kelly McGavock, SM ‘59