

Robert Hesse Jr., a successful businessman who gave back to the community

Robert Hesse Jr., of Gwynedd Valley, a prominent businessman who served his country and his community, died on April 14 of natural causes in Medford, NJ. He was a devoted husband and a loving father.

Mr. Hesse, the middle of three children, was born on August 2, 1922, the son of Robert Hesse and Eloise Booth Hesse. His father was a successful Philadelphia printer.

He graduated from Abington High School in 1940, where he lettered in swimming and track. He attended the Wharton School of Finance and The Charles Morris Price School of Advertising.

He joined the Air Corps in 1940 and was trained as a pilot. In 1945 he married Evelyn Rebecca Hesse, who he met at Key Field in Meridien, Mississippi. They were married for 66 years.

Mr. Hesse returned to Philadelphia after his discharge and lived on Church Street in Abington. He joined his father at The Winchell Company, a printing company located at 1315 Cherry Street. He and Mrs. Hesse had three children.

A member of the 28th Division of the National Guard, he was called up during the Korean conflict and served as a Captain in the Army Aircraft Ordinance in Korea. In 1955 he moved his family to Gwynedd Valley.

He was Chairman of the Philadelphia Armed Services YMCA, President of the Philadelphia Master Printers of America, a member of Toastmasters International, a Director of the Graphic Arts Association of the Delaware Valley and a participant in many other local organizations. As a member of the Union League, he co-chaired the Youth Work Foundation and led efforts to raise scholarship funds.

He was a photographer, chef, amateur astronomer, ham radio operator and amateur scientist. His son Bob recalls when he built a 'cloud chamber' with dry ice and a movie projector to show the tracks of gamma rays from outer space.

An avid sailor, he raced Lightning class sailboats at the Brant Beach Yacht Club on Long Beach Island, where he was elected Commodore. He and Mrs. Hesse spent much of their free time cruising the Chesapeake Bay in 'Ragtime', their beloved sailboat. They also traveled extensively through Europe and the United States, and sailed 'Ragtime' to the Virgin Islands on an extended cruise.

After a very successful career in the graphic arts, Mr. Hesse retired from Winchell in 1986 as Executive Vice President. At that time Winchell was the largest and most respected printing company in Philadelphia with over 300 employees and annual sales of \$33 million.

Mr. and Mrs. Hesse moved to 'Parrott's Point' in St. Michaels MD, where they continued to cruise the Chesapeake in 'Ragtime'. Mr. Hesse built wooden sailboats and was an active member of the Chesapeake Bay Maritime Museum.

Surviving are sons Robert and Edwin and grandsons Benjamin and Zachary. A daughter Susan passed

away in March of 2011. Rebecca Hesse passed away in November of 2011.

A memorial service will be held on April 28 at 10:00 AM in the Holly Room at Medford Leas, One Medford Leas Way, Medford NJ 08055. Donations may be made in his memory to the Resident Assistance Fund, One Medford Leas Way, Medford NJ 08055.