

Half Staff – James P. Rasmussen

January 21, 1998

James P. Rasmussen, 69, husband of Marilyn (Irving) Rasmussen of 21 Granite St., Rockport, died of complications from a cerebral hemorrhage on Wednesday, Jan. 21, at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. He was born in Honolulu, Hawaii, on Nov. 20, 1928, to the late Capt. James and Martha (Peterson) Rasmussen, and was raised in San Francisco, California.

Following graduation from the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD, class of 1950, he served for two years aboard the USS Valley Forge in Korea. He later earned a naval architect and marine engineering degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1955. During his 20 years of military service, he served in shipyards in this country and Japan. He supervised the installation of the nuclear core on the USS Enterprise and was the engineering officer in the building of the USS John F. Kennedy. He received a meritorious service award for his work on these ships.

He also received several other service awards, including the Korean Medal with six battle stars, the Victory Medal (Japanese Occupation), the National Defense Service Medal, the Korean Presidential Unit Citation, the Navy Unit Commendation Medal, the American Defense Service Medal and the United Nations Medal.

On retirement from the U.S. Navy, with the rank of Commander, he furthered his education at M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Business Administration and at Boston University receiving a MBA in Business and Accounting.

Mr. Rasmussen opened his certified public accounting firm in Rockport. He was the District Advocate for the Perot campaign. He loved this country and hoped to obtain campaign reforms, in order to reduce politicians' monetary dependency on outside income, especially PAC money.

He was a member and past president of the Rockport Rotary Club and also a member of Spiran Lodge No. 98 and the Ashler Lodge A.F. & A.M. of Rockport.

He was a loving father and husband. He is survived by his wife of 46 years, Marilyn (Irving) Rasmussen of Rockport; his children, Elizabeth Scanzani of Wakefield, Kauren Rasmussen of Nahant, John and, his wife, Sarah (Schultz) Rasmussen, of Gloucester, and Paul Rasmussen of Hermosa Beach, California. He was a proud grandfather of Laura and Michael Scanzani, both of Wakefield, and Alexander and Nicholas Rasmussen, both of Gloucester. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews in California.

His funeral services will be held on Saturday at 2 p.m. in the First Baptist Church, 2 High St., Rockport. Burial will be held in Beech Grove Cemetery, Rockport.

A reception will follow at the Rockport Art Association, 12 Main St., Rockport. Visiting hours are today from 2 to 4 and 7 to 9 p.m. at the Burgess and Mackey Funeral Home, 177 Main St., Rockport.

Donations may be made in his memory to the Friends of the First Baptist Church, 2 High St., Rockport, Mass., 01966, or to the Edward Peterson Post No. 98 American Legion, 32 Beach St.,

Rockport, Mass., 01966.

Spiran Lodge will conduct a memorial service at the funeral home on Friday at 7 p.m. Ashler Lodge A.F. & A.M. will conduct a Masonic memorial service at the funeral home tonight at 8.