

Harding Jenkins



Harding Babbitt Jenkins passed away April 28, 2010 at the age of 92, at the Idaho State Veterans Home. Harding was born April 9, 1918 in Winchester, MA, the only child of George H and Winifred McEvoy Jenkins. He attended schools in Greenfield, Longmeadow and Amherst, MA graduating from Amherst High School in 1936. He went 2 years to Worcester Polytechnic Institute in Worcester and graduated from Amherst College in the class of 1940. In college Harding was a member of Phi Gamma Delta fraternity. Harding went to work as a manufacturing

division trainee at the American Optical Company in Southbridge, MA in 1940 and retired from the company in 1972 as a corporate Vice-President. During his career at the A.O. he managed ophthalmic lens manufacturing operations in the U.S. and international operations in Europe and South America. In Southbridge Harding exercised leadership roles in the Chamber of Commerce, Rotary Club, the YMCA, Harrington Hospital and Holy Trinity Church. He served as a Lieutenant J. G. in the U.S. Navy from 1944 - 1946 in the Pacific Theater. Harding met and married Elizabeth Marie Stoddard, who was also an American Optical employee in 1942. Mom and Dad were married in December, 1942 at All Saint's Episcopal Church in Belmont, MA and had an active relationship with an Episcopal parish in each community in which they lived, Massachusetts, Florida and Idaho. Following Dad's retirement in 1972, he was a consultant at Mount Holyoke College for 3 years and then did a 3 month volunteer consulting job for the International Executive Service Corps in Manila, Philippines. Dad and Mom traveled extensively, camping throughout the USA and participating in the Elderhostel Program. Dad loved the planning aspect of their numerous car trips across the USA, exploring new routes, visiting National Parks and state capital cities. Dad and Mom moved from Massachusetts to Venice, Florida and in 1991 to Boise, Idaho, where their youngest daughter Nancy and her family live. Harding was preceded in death by his wife, Elizabeth(1999), his son, John Southard Jenkins (2002) and his daughter, Judith Jenkins Musco (1998). Harding is survived by his daughter, Nancy Jenkins Beach (David), Boise, ID, daughter-in-law, Cynthia Hall Jenkins, Petersham, MA and son-in-law, Thomas G. Musco (Deborah D'Amico), Royalston, MA. Grandchildren: Andrea Beach Morton (Scott), Cedar Park, TX; Sarah Beach Kunz (Alexander), Omaha, NE; Acacia Sydney Beach, New York City, NY; Catherine Winifred Jenkins, Leominster, MA; Christopher John Jenkins (Natellen), Barre, MA; Mary Elizabeth Jenkins, Petersham, MA; Lydia Jenkins Musco (Joshua Doub), Mooresville, NC; Taj Jenkins Musco, Singapore. Great-grandchildren: Croix Michael Jenkins, Cedar Elizabeth Jenkins and Lars John Jenkins, Barre, MA; Natalie Claire Morton, Cedar Park, TX. I wish to thank the nurses, CNA's and staff on 1 West for the wonderful care and friendship that they gave to my Dad and me since he arrived at the Idaho State Veterans Home. They showed such compassion and the utmost respect for my Dad and all the other veterans that are residents at the home. Thank you from the bottom of my heart. There will be no local services. We will have a graveside service in Massachusetts at a future date.

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