

John E. Wimberg

Date of Death: 11/22/2014

John E. Wimberg, 87, of Evansville, Indiana, passed away Saturday, November 22, 2014, at Methodist Hospital in Henderson, Ky. He was born February 12 1927, to the late John E. and Helen C. (Wright) Wimberg. Wimberg was a graduate of Memorial High School and served in the U. S. Army Infantry as a Japanese interpreter during WW II. He also was fluent in Spanish and Vietnamese. He received medals for meritorious service during that war, and later, for civilian service in Viet Nam. He earned a diploma from Yale University, College of Oriental Studies, and later attended St. Michael's College, Santa Fe, N.M., University of Hawaii, Honolulu, University of Chicago, and University of New Mexico, in Albuquerque, where he earned B B A and M B A degrees. He was a member of Alpha Kappa Psi Business Fraternity. He attended Christ The King Catholic Church, where he sang in the choir, served as usher, and was Chairman of the Parish Council for one tour. His federal career included working initially for the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission in New Mexico, Kansas, Hawaii, and Illinois, and later as a Foreign Service Officer with the U. S. Department of State overseas. His foreign residences included Santo Domingo, DR, Saigon, Viet Nam, New Delhi, India, and Panama City, Panama. His travels included all 50 states and more than 60 foreign countries. His final position before 1979 retirement was as Deputy Director, Office of the Inspector General, U S A I D, Department of State, in Washington, where he monitored worldwide integrity of operations. During his retirement, Mr. Wimberg worked for many years to write his personal memoirs in an autobiography entitled: "AROUND THE WORLD IN EIGHTY YEARS ". He personally typed the 420-page manuscript book full of many tales of life experiences, travels, close-calls, and adventures. Only a few signed copies went to his family, and the book remains unpublished. In younger years his interests included photography and contract bridge. He earned many master points and won first place in bridge tournaments held in Albuquerque and Saigon. In retirement Wimberg also worked as a court federal investigator conducting background security clearance investigations for U. S. Treasury Dept., Customs Bureau, U. S. Air Force, National Security Agency, and other federal agencies. He enjoyed singing, playing guitar, and doing voice impressions. During two tours in Santo Domingo, he became a well-known TV personality, performing weekly on a popular TV show called "International Strings". He had a good sense of humor and often would amuse friends with stories of life experiences. He truly believed that a keen sense of humor and the ability to laugh at awkward, unpleasant or incongruous situations helped one live a longer, healthier life.