James Reed Swenson

October 18, 1933 ~ October 11, 2014

James Reed Swenson passed away peacefully in his home on October 11, 2014. Jim was born in Ogden, Utah on November 18, 1933 to Reed Knute and Ruth Freebairn Swenson. Jim attended Ogden High School where he served as student body president. He met and married Sharon Elaine Coray in the Salt Lake temple August 21, 1953. Jim went on to excel at everything he did. He started his education at Weber State College and then was accepted early to the University of Utah medical school. He graduated top of his class and received the Winthrobe Award as the most promising doctor. His career was interrupted for 2 years as he served as a captain in the US Army. He went on to complete his residency at New York University under Howard Rusk, a pioneer in the field of physical medicine and rehabilitation. Jim was hired as chairman by the University of Utah to create and establish the first PMandR department in the intermountain west. He held this position for over 36 years, during which time he successfully treated many patients, was a gifted teacher to residents and medical students, and directed the multidisciplinary team in his department. Jim served in the national academy of physical medicine and rehabilitation in many positions including president.

Jim was an active member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints where he served in many callings, most notably as explorer leader for over 20 years, where he touched the lives of many young men in their legendary super activities. Jim was a very devoted husband, father and grandfather. Jim and Sharon were true sweethearts for over 50 years. They enjoyed worldwide travel, cultural and sporting events, and anything else Jim could think up, including disco lessons. Jim lovingly cared for her as she battled cancer, and has long anticipated their reunion.

Jim is survived by his sister, Janet Okerlund, and his children, Richard (Annette), Karen (Larry), Leslie (David), David (Mary), Julianne (Roger), 15 grandchildren, and 14 great grandchildren. Proceeded in death by his loving wife Sharon and their son Bradley John.

Funeral services will be held Tuesdsay, October 21, 2014 at 11:00 am at the Monument Park Stake Center, 1300 South Wasatch Boulevard, Salt Lake City, Utah. A viewing will be held on Monday October 20, 2014 from 6 to 8 pm at the Larkin Sunset Lawn Mortuary, 2350 East 1300 South, and again Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 10:30 am at the stake center prior to the funeral services. Interment will be at the Salt Lake City Cemetery.The family expresses their appreciation to Oli Fifita for her loving care of Dad over the last 3 years. Condolences can be shared with the family at www.larkinmortuary.com.