



Charles E. Dixon

February 13, 1918 - December 31, 2007

Charles E. Dixon, 89, Marco Island FL, formerly of Indianapolis, passed away at Methodist Hospital on December 31, 2007. Mr. Dixon was born February 13, 1918 in Benton Harbor Michigan. He was the son of James P. and Hazel Brown Dixon. He married Helen Waskom May 21, 1944 and they were a loving couple for 63 years preceding his death. Charlie graduated from Purdue University as a Distinguished Student with a BS degree in Mechanical Engineering in 1939, specializing in Automotive Engineering and completing his studies early. He was a member of Tau Beta Pi and Pi Tau Sigma. After graduation, Charlie spent time as a test engineer for Pratt Whitney but service to his country called. He worked in the private sector during World War II, using his technical expertise to support the Allied war effort in Europe and the Pacific. In June 1940, as an engineer for Allison Division of General Motors, Charlie's work took him to England where he supported the Allison V1710 engines that would be used by the British RAF during the Battle of Britain. After leaving England in 1942, Charlie returned home but again his expertise was needed in the war effort, this time in North Africa. He spent much of 1943 as a technical advisor to the US Army air forces assigned to units supporting Montgomery's 8th Army march to Tripoli. Throughout his life, Charlie was very proud of his service in England and North Africa. After the war, Charlie continued his career with General Motors Corporation. He served in sales and as manager of service and quality organizations for both Aero Products in Dayton, Ohio and Allison Division of GM. He retired in 1983 after more than

42 years service, having helped pioneer the transition from piston driven aircraft technology to the age of turbo fan aircraft engines. But Charlie didn't retire his inquiring mind and sense of adventure. He spent the 25 years of his retirement with his best friend Helen, his children and grandchildren, enjoying whitewater rafting in Colorado and traveling to Europe. But his favorite spot was the log cabin he lovingly rebuilt in Michigan's Upper Peninsula. He and Helen enjoyed the local community and the many good times spent with family and friends in their special 40-acre heaven on earth. Charlie took great pride in the education and accomplishments of his family. In addition to his beloved Helen he is survived by son Jim (Inez) Dixon and daughter Deborah (Wally) Baker, five grandchildren and four great grandchildren. Private memorial services are pending. Memorial contributions can be made to the Purdue University Foundation, Mechanical Engineering Department, Dauch Alumni Center, 403 W. Wood Street, West Lafayette, Indiana 47907. Arrangements entrusted to Shirley Brothers Fishers-Castleton Chapel.