

Obit-Zenner

Freeman

8-28-2004

Obit. Zenner, Walter J.
Feb. 21, 1904-Aug. 27, 2004

MUKWONAGO

Walter J. Zenner

Feb. 21, 1904 – Aug. 27, 2004

Walter J. Zenner, born in Chicago on Feb. 21, 1904, died at Waukesha Memorial Hospital on Friday, Aug. 27, 2004.

He is survived by his wife, Lois A. (Martin) Zenner; his sons, John "Jack" (Diana) and Tom (who was preceded in death by his wife, Donna); his daughters, Mary Webster (Harold) and Chris Litwin (Larry); 11 grandchildren; and 22 great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Mildred, in 1975.

Mr. Zenner was an inventor of communication products covered by 115 U.S. patents and was vice president of research and development of Teletype Corp. from 1928 to 1964. He was also co-founder and chairman of Extel Corp., an early manufacturer of both dot matrix and ink jet printers of his design.

The value of his product designs during World War II earned him a certificate of commendation from the U.S. Navy in 1947.

He graduated from Illinois Institute of Technology with a BSEE in 1928 and was a member of Tau Beta Pi and ETA Kappa Nu, honorary engineering fraternities, a life fellow of the American Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers, a life member of the Western Society of Engineers and was a registered professional engineer in the state of Illinois.

He was a member of the First Congregational Church of Mukwonago, a member of the Mukwonago Kiwanis Club and was on the board of directors of Kiwanis Manor in East Troy.

He also volunteered a great deal of time to youth-oriented activities and was president of the board of education in Des Plaines, Ill., from 1964 to 1968.

Visitation will be held from 4 p.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, Aug. 30, at Schmidt & Bartelt Van Valin Funeral Home, 315 Main St., Mukwonago. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 31, at First Congregational Church in Mukwonago, 231 Roberts Drive. Burial will take place at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 1, at Mount Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst, Ill.

Memorials to First Congregational Church of Mukwonago or Kiwanis Manor in East Troy are appreciated.

Schmidt & Bartelt Van Valin Funeral Home, 363-7126, is serving the family.

(Freeman – Aug. 28, 2004)