



James Richard Surface

February 26, 1921 - August 1, 2013

Dr. James R. Surface - Age 92, professor of management, emeritus, at Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management and former executive vice chancellor and provost of the university, died Thu. Aug. 1, 2013. Preceded in death by parents Richard and Lucile, brother Ed and sister Jane Foster, his wife of 53 years, Mary and second wife of 10 years, Fifi. He is survived by daughter Mary Lu Gallaudet (Denison) and sons Richard (Stephanie), Dan (Aileen Katcher), John and Tom (Ibba); eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. He joined Vanderbilt in 1969 as an original faculty member at the Graduate School of Management. He was promoted to executive vice chancellor of the university in 1972 and became provost and executive vice president in 1975. He returned to full-time teaching at Owen in 1978 until his retirement in 1986. Surface was a first lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II. He earned bachelor's and master's degrees in political science from the University of Kansas, and an MBA and doctorate from Harvard Business School, where he taught for eight years. He returned to University of Kansas to serve as dean of its School of Business and University vice chancellor before joining Vanderbilt. Jim was a lover of music. The family requests donations in his memory be made to the James and Mary Surface Memorial Flower Fund at Blair School of Music at Vanderbilt. A memorial celebration is being planned for September.

Tribute Wall



“ *James Richard Surface*

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