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JAMES CRAWFORD(1922 - 2015)

James MacDonald Crawford Senior executive for national companies with early engineering roles on Manhattan Project and electronic ignitions, watercolorist and Newark Academy trustee, of Essex Fells, 92 James MacDonald Crawford, 92, of Essex Fells, N.J., died on Friday, Jan. 16, 2015. Born in Elizabeth, N.J., in 1922, Mr. Crawford grew up in Summit, N.J., and in 1958 moved to Essex Fells with his family. Graduating from Williams in 1943 with a B.A. in physics, he spent the war years in Oak Ridge, Tenn., working on the Manhattan Project. In 1951 he earned his M.B.A. from New York University while working for Allis Chalmers Co. In the early 1960s, he headed a Wagner Electric Company division developing an electronic ignition system. He installed and tested the devices in race cars at the 24 hour race at Le Mans, France, and the 12 hour race at Sebring, Fla. Later in his career he served as vice president of marketing for a division of The American Standard Co.; as vice president of planning for The Wagner Electric Co., and in 1992, retired as executive vice president of the IDL Corporation, Carlstadt, N.J. Mr. Crawford was an accomplished watercolorist, and his other interests included music, duplicate bridge, tennis, and golf. He enjoyed traveling with his wife, and drove through Spain, Greece, Italy, Scotland, and Ireland, and many times through England and France. He and his wife were involved in genealogical research and visited court houses and historical societies in several cities to uncover their family histories. He was a past member of the St. Andrews Society of NY and the Montclair Golf Club. He served as president of the Fells Brook Club and at various times, he served as a vestryman of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Essex Fells; a trustee of The Newark Academy; president of the Essex Fells PTA, and a member of the Essex Fells Juvenile Council. He is survived by his wife of 65 years, Mimi Brown; son, Jeffrey, of Winona Lakes, Ind.; daughter, Anna, of West Hartford, Conn., and daughter-in-law, Lynn Szwaja of Norwalk, Conn., and seven grandchildren. He was predeceased by his son, Douglas. A memorial service will be held at a future date at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, Essex Fells. Funeral services are under the direction of Farmer Funeral Home, 45 Roseland Ave., Roseland, N.J. Memories and condolences may be shared at farmerfuneral.com.

Funeral Home**Farmer Funeral Home**

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