

GALE ALDEN (G.A.) SWANSON OBT.

CLEVELAND -- Funeral services for **Gale Alden (G.A.) Swanson**, 70, were held today, Tuesday, July 7, at 10 a.m. in the chapel of Ralph Buckner Funeral Home with a white dove release ceremony concluding the service.

Entombment was in Sunset Memorial Gardens.



Mr. Swanson died Friday, July 3, 2009, at his residence.

He was born January 12, 1939, in Lemmon, S.D., to the late George H.A. and Freda Wolff Swanson.

Mr. Swanson spent his early days in South Dakota, California and Arizona. He attended elementary and three years of high school in Tucson, Ariz., and graduated with honors from Lee Academy in Cleveland in 1956. Mr. Swanson earned a bachelor's degree in accounting from Lee College, a M.A. degree in college teaching from the University of Tennessee in Knoxville and a Ph.D. from Georgia State University in Atlanta. He served as faculty at several institutions, including Roane State Community College, Lee College, South West State University of Marshall, Minn., West Georgia College and 27 years at Tennessee Technological University.

He was a founder of the Tennessee Society of Accounting Educators, a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and participated in numerous academic and civic organizations. During his long academic career he served as the accounting department chairman at West Georgia College and Tennessee Tech University.

Throughout his years at Tech, Mr. Swanson earned many faculty awards and was known internationally for his research in systems science. He authored numerous academic papers and books and was known as a prominent organizational theorist whose work added to various areas of organizational science, from auditing to macro-accounting. He served in several leadership roles in the International Society for Systems Science (ISSS) and ultimately as its president. He continued to be an active researcher and editor, serving many years on the editorial board of Behavioral Science, the premier academic journal of systems science. Mr. Swanson was instrumental in the organization of many international conferences with the society, most recently in China where he presented a paper at the University of Science and Technology at Beijing. **He was actively teaching during the semester prior to his death, and retired from Tennessee Tech in early June 2009.**

His family includes his former wife and mother of their children, Treasure Swanson of Cleveland; a daughter and son-in-law, Connie and Steven Scheid of Cordova, S.C.; two sons and a daughter-in-law, George A. and Kathy Swanson of Knoxville and Nolan G. Swanson of Cleveland; two sisters and brothers-in-law, Joanne and Frank Montgomery of Walnut Grove, Calif., and Darlene and Curtis Woods of Independence, Mo.; two brothers and a sister-in-law, Ronald and Pauletta Swanson of Benson, Ariz., and Tom Swanson of Tucson; and five grandchildren, Anthony, Richard and Cathryn Smith of Cookeville and Emily and Audrey Swanson of Knoxville.

In addition to his parents, Mr. Swanson was preceded in death by a niece, Kathy Jo Montgomery.

Pallbearers were Joshua Montgomery, Don Weinrauch, R. Dan Fesler, Lamar Orr, Danny Jenkins and Anthony Sherlin.

Honorary pallbearers were Charles Cooper and Don Cooke.

Rev. David Bishop officiated the services.

Memorial donations may be made to Hospice of Chattanooga Foundation, P.O. Box 19269, Chattanooga, TN 37416.

Send a message of condolence and view the Swanson family guest book at

Tuesday, Jul 07, 2009: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

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