

Harlan, IA. News Advertiser,
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James McMechan, 70

June 23, 1932 - March 22, 2003

AMES – James D. McMechan was born June 23, 1932, in Harlan, the son of James P. McMechan and Ruby Dent. After graduating from Waterloo East High school he received both his Bachelors and Masters degrees from Iowa State University where he was a member of Alpha Chi Rho fraternity and Eta Kappa Nu Scholastic Honorary.

He married Ardis Walter Sept. 8, 1957, in Beaman. He joined the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering Department after graduation, taught and did research for 37 years retiring as professor emeritus in 1992. He was a consultant for a number of businesses and colleges; a member of the Operations Analysis Group for the U.S. Air Force and was the Regional Communications Director of the National Defense Executive Reserve, U.S. Department of Transportation. Summers were spent with Data Communications Short Course at ISU; the U.S. Bureau of Standards, Boulder, CO; Hewlett-Packard in Palo Alto, CA; or U.S. Air Force at Eglin Air Force Base in Florida. He was involved with amateur radio, especially the Navy Military Affiliate Radio Service (Navy MARS). He was often called on to provide emergency radio communications during times of disaster. A former Scoutmaster, he continued taking part in various activities with the Boys Scouts of America. He died March 22, 2003, at the Israel Family Hospice House in Ames, at age 70.

He was preceded in death by his parents and sister. He is survived by his wife, Ardis; his children, James W. McMechan of Ridgecrest, CA; Sara E. Albaugh of West Des Moines; and one grandchild, Anna L. Albaugh; his aunt, Elma Dent of Harlan.

Funeral services were held March 27, 2003, at the Collegiate Presbyterian Church with the Reverend Kent Organ officiating. Burial was in the Iowa State University Cemetery.