Devoted to Christian Service

Chester J. Toren (ACAS 1966) 1920-2015

Chester Toren passed away June 11, 2015, in Munster, Indiana at the age of 94. He was born in Chicago on October 10, 1920, to Anthony Toren (a salesman) and Mamie (Dekker) Toren. In 1937 he was the first family member to go away to college, graduating from Hope College with a bachelor's degree in mathematics and education in 1941. He enrolled in a graduate program at the University of Chicago's School of Business, which was interrupted by military service in the U.S. Army Signal Corps during World War II. He was discharged with the rank of Staff Sergeant. In June 1947, he married Lucille Teninga, a graduate of Hope College and schoolteacher. The couple, married for 58 years, had five sons. He earned his master's degree in business administration in 1947 and started his 38-year career with Zurich Insurance Company, retiring in 1985 as an assistant vice president. Devoted to Christian education, he was a founding member of Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, Illinois, in 1959, and served on its first board of trustees. He also sat on the school boards of Lansing Christian School and Illiana Christian High School. He was very active at his church, which was the core of his social life; he performed in several capacities, including as Sunday school teacher. He is survived by his children, John (Susan) of Shawnee, Kansas; Glenn (Nancy) of Carmel, Indiana; Carl (Margaret) of Lynwood, Illinois; Paul (Heidi) of Shawnee; Kevin (Shelley) of Ada, Michigan; and about 20 grandchildren. Gifts in his honor may be given to the Toren Scholarship Fund, Hope College, Holland, Michigan 49423.