

The Airplane Instructor
James T. French (ACAS 1968)
1931–2021

James T. French died at home in Osceola, Wisconsin, on July 9, 2021, surrounded by family after two years of declining health. He was 90 years old. He was born January 11, 1931, in Peterson, Iowa, to Clifford DuBois and Annie Marie (Tumler) French. He had one brother, Jerre. French attended high school in Spencer, Iowa, and graduated from Iowa State University in 1953 with a bachelor's degree in industrial economics. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the U.S. Army and was assigned to counterintelligence. After receiving basic conversational training in Japanese, he served an 18-month tour in Korea. He was immensely proud of his military service and regarded it as life-enriching. Afterwards, he worked for the Continental Casualty Company in Chicago for 19 years as an actuary, later accepting a position at Mutual of Omaha. He retired from ITT Life Insurance Company as senior vice president and CFO in 1996. In 1982 he married his wife Judy (Greer) in Hennepin, Minnesota. During retirement, the couple moved to the St. Croix River Valley, Wisconsin, area in 2001. French loved airplanes and obtained his private pilot's license while living in Chicago, eventually becoming certified as a flight instructor. He loved his dogs, country living, classical music and the *Nutcracker Fantasy* as well as having a project to tinker on. He is survived by his wife, two children, two stepchildren, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. Donations in his memory may be given to Arnell Memorial Humane Society in Amery, Wisconsin, or the Nature Conservancy.