

CONCORD - James Hart Evans, 89, of Concord, Massachusetts, died peacefully on Saturday March 18, 2017 at the Newbury Court residence he shared with Betty, his beloved wife of over 61 years.

James Hart was born in Bridgeport, CT on May 25, 1927, the eldest child of the late William Hooper Evans Sr. and Dorothy Hart Evans and was commonly called Hart. He graduated from Saint Louis University High School and went on to obtain a BS degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Notre Dame. He joined the United States Marine Corps as a reservist in 1947 and graduated from St. Louis University with a law degree prior to being activated by the Marines in 1950 and shipped out of Camp Pendleton CA to serve in the Korean War.

Upon returning home in 1952, Hart began his career as a patent attorney with Union Carbide in New York City, NY. He married Betty Jean Hebrank on June 4, 1955 in St. Louis, MO, and they moved to New Canaan, CT in 1957 where they raised four children and resided for over 50 years. He was an active member and usher at St. Aloysius Church. Hart was a founding member and President of the Lake Club where his children and grandchildren made many fond summer memories enjoying swimming, boating, and tennis. In his later years, he chaired the New Canaan Zoning Board of Appeals. He loved New Canaan and wanted to ensure that it retained its small town New England appeal. Hart was by all accounts a Patriot; he proudly flew the American flag and loved marching with fellow veterans in the annual Memorial Day Parade as he forever carried the banner, "Semper Fidelis" in his heart. He loved his work and was energized by the overseas travel required in the years he headed up Carbide's international patent licensing. After 40 years of service, Hart retired from Union Carbide in 1993; he still enjoyed commuting by train to NYC to visit his barber or favorite sandwich shop when he could.

Reading, hunting, fishing and collecting stamps, nature books and coins were among his many interests. His work crew of four were regularly deployed in support of his many house and yard projects at 81 Evergreen Road. In retirement, he and Betty traveled the world extensively, returning with fascinating stories and treasures, which were graciously shared with their children and grandchildren.

He is survived by his loving wife Betty and their children, William M. Evans of New Lenox, IL, Kathryn E. Lagunowich of Acton, MA, Susan Hart Magnuson of Cardiff, CA, and Ann E. O'Toole of Fort Collins, CO; as well as ten grandchildren; Gwendalynn Bowen and Annalise Evans, Mary, Michael, and Matthew Lagunowich, Claire, Daniel, Brian, and Julie Magnuson, Lindie O'Toole and sibling Robert M. Evans Sr. of St. Louis. He is preceded in death by siblings Blanche Evans, Virginia E. Noell, William H. Evans, Jr, of St. Louis, MO and Clement M. Evans of Austin, TX.

His funeral Mass will be celebrated on Wednesday, March 29th at 10:30 am in Holy Family Parish, Monument Square, Concord Center. Representatives from the U.S. Marine Corps will present military honors at the conclusion of the Mass. A graveside service will be on Thursday, March 30th at 1 pm in Lakeview Cemetery, Main Street, New Canaan, CT.

Concord's Town Flag will fly at half-staff on Wednesday, March 29th in recognition of Hart's honorable military service to our country.

In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be made to the Injured Marine Semper Fi Fund, 825 College Boulevard, Suite 102, PMB 609, Oceanside, CA 92057 (www.semperfifund.org) or to Americares, 88 Hamilton Avenue, Stamford, CT 06902 (www.americares.org).

To share a remembrance or to send a condolence in his online guestbook, please visit www.deefuneralhome.com.