

Craig M. Smith, former CGR director, dies at age 92

Bennett J. Loudon • Staff writer • February 1, 2011

Craig M. Smith, 92, retired director of the Center for Governmental Research Inc., died Friday at his home.

Raised in Pittsford, Mr. Smith graduated from the University of Rochester in 1939 with a bachelor's degree in political science. He married Onle Rothfuss on Oct. 19, 1940.

Mr. Smith served in the U.S. Army during World War II.

He played varsity baseball for three years at the University of Rochester and was inducted into the university's Athletic Hall of Fame in 2001.

Mr. Smith began working as a volunteer at the Rochester Bureau of Municipal Research in 1940, about six months after graduating from college. After a short time, he was hired as a permanent employee.

In 1956, he was named director of the Research Bureau. He served 27 years as director before retiring in 1983.

The bureau, founded in 1915 by George Eastman, conducted research for public and private groups to help them make informed decisions. The name of the organization was changed in 1960 to the Center for Governmental Research Inc.

Under Mr. Smith's direction, several studies were conducted that led to the creation of Monroe Community College, centralizing library services, and consolidating parks and public health services.

Mr. Smith enjoyed coaching Little League, sailing, golfing, woodworking, photography and maintaining his 17-acre homestead, which is partly in Victor and partly in Mendon, said his son, Jeffrey Smith of Mendon.

Mr. Smith is survived by his wife, Onle; his sons, Stephen and Jeffrey; his daughter Deborah Green;

seven grandchildren; six great-grandchildren; several nieces, nephews, other relatives, and many friends.

No services will be held in accordance with Mr. Smith's wishes.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Greenview Foundation, which was established by Mr. Smith's daughter, to fight hepatitis C. The foundation's address is: 2773 Holyoke Lane, Ann Arbor, MI 48103. The foundation's website is at www.hepcfund.org.

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