

# James W. Spurgeon

Occupant Name: James W. Spurgeon

Location: **Section L, Lot 67**

Date of Birth: 12/29/1914

Date of Death: 2/1/2001

Date of Burial: 2/4/2001

Veteran: Yes

Lot Owner: John Spurgeon

Multiple Occupants: No

Comment:



James W. Spurgeon, 86, a Brownstown business owner who was renowned throughout the State of Indiana for his leadership qualities and his dedication to community service, died at 11:45 a.m. Thursday, February 1, 2001, at Memorial Hospital in Seymour.

Born December 29, 1914, Mr. Spurgeon was the son of James J. and Lillie L. Weathers Spurgeon, both of whom are deceased.

A Brownstown native, he began his business career following his graduation from Brownstown High School in 1933 and after graduating from Indiana Business College in 1936. He served as a deputy county clerk in Jackson County under Joseph Robertson. Spurgeon then followed Robertson to the Indiana statehouse and served as a deputy clerk in the state treasurer's office. Mr. Spurgeon became the chief licensing officer with the Indiana insurance department and was responsible for establishment of the first state insurance exam.

In May 1940, Mr. Spurgeon purchased the George Gunder Insurance Agency in Brownstown and operated the agency until he entered the U.S. Army and served in WWII from 1942 through 1946 at which time he returned to Brownstown to resume his insurance business, Jackson County Insurance Agency, Inc., where he remained active until his death.

In October 1940, in Whiteland, he married Pauline Dawson Spurgeon who survives.

Mr. Spurgeon became active on the political scene when he was elected to serve in the Indiana House of Representatives in 1947 and served four terms before being elected to the Indiana State Senate and served from 1956 through 1968, and again from 1978 to 1982.