

## James "Jim" F. Sparr

Nominated by William C. Sparr, nephew

James "Jim" F. Sparr of Marshfield was a near lifelong resident of this city which he loved. He was born here on April 21, 1922, the son of Charles and Jane Sparr. His father owned businesses in the community including Sparr Cereal Mill.

Jim graduated from Marshfield Senior High School in 1940 and UW River Falls in 1948.

Jim entered the U. S. Army on June 3, 1943. During World War II, while serving in Belgium during the disastrous "Battle of the Bulge," he was taken as a prisoner of war by the German Army in December of 1944. Jame's widowed mother, living at West 4th Street, received a Western Union telegram telling of her son missing in action. The Marshfield News Herald reported his capture and later inhumane treatment where he lost eighty pounds in his three and a half months of captivity. Private Sparr escaped on a prisoner march in April of 1945, and the good news was shared all over Marshfield! He was later awarded the European African Middle Eastern Service Medal. Jim was honorably discharged on October 25, 1945.



Jim and his wife, Nelda had a son, Charles, and a daughter, Florence. He went on to be a teacher and administrator at schools in Wisconsin and Michigan. In 1967, James returned to Marshfield and accepted a position with Brandl Trucking, Inc. until he retired in 1983.

Jim was an avid Marshfield Tigers, Badgers, and Packers fan. He enjoyed reading and spent many hours daily at the Marshfield Public Library. Jim was known as the "Big Guy" who took down the library's American flag at the end of the day. When he passed, he left a stipend for his beloved library. Jim was a friendly person who enjoyed meeting and talking with people of all ages and backgrounds. He liked to walk and frequently could be seen up and down Central Avenue.

Jim passed away at the age of 89 on May 27, 2011 at Golden Living Center- Three Oaks and is buried in the Sparr Family plot at Hillside Cemetery.