

Bruce William Potter, 76, of Bella Vista, AR passed away at Regency Hospital In Springdale, AR, AR on April 5, 2009 from complications arising from heart surgery in January, 2009. Bruce was born in Duluth, MN, on October 14, 1932 to Oran and Lydia (Beckman) Potter and relocated to Bella Vista, AR in 1994.

Following graduation from Duluth Denfeld High School in 1950, Bruce served in the U.S. Army stationed at Fort Lewis, Washington. He graduated from the University of Minnesota Duluth in 1957 with a degree in Accounting. Bruce was employed with the Internal Revenue Service until 1965. He then went to work in the trust department of Norwest Bank Duluth (now known as Wells Fargo) until his retirement in 1993 as the position of Senior Trust Officer and Vice President. Bruce and family were members of Glen Avon Presbyterian Church of Duluth and he was active in several community organizations, including the board of the Wilbur Mitchell Foundation. Bruce was a member of the Masonic Temple. Outdoor activities that were enjoyed by Bruce included cross country skiing, fishing on Lake Superior and the streams along the North Shore, times at the family cabin on Island Lake. Bruce also enjoyed the game of golf which led he and Joan to retire to the warmer climate of Arkansas.

In Bella Vista, Bruce carried his enjoyment of fishing to Beaver Lake, the White River and other area rivers and streams. Golf played an important part of his retirement, belonging to the Bella Vista Men's Golf Association Nine Hole, the Northerners, Men's golf team of the Highlands Church and also the Hackers, a couples golf group. His church was important to him as he served on committees, both at Community Church and then Highlands Church. The streets committee of the Village was another enjoyable service group that Bruce was on at two different times. Bruce and Joey enjoyed traveling to different places and well as visiting family.

Bruce was preceded in death by his parents; 1st wife of 45 years, Joan May (Goller) in 2000; and several aunts, uncles and cousins.

Bruce is survived by his wife, Joey of 7 years, sister Blendena Evans; daughter Elizabeth (Jim) Gausman; grandsons Bradley and Daniel; son Allen (Mona) and cousins Paul (Betty) Potter and Charles (Kitty) Gustafson; step-daughter, Janice Linder Burch (Dick), brother in law Robert Crandall; two granddaughters Leslie Burch Spaeny (Ryan); Kim Burch and one great-granddaughter, Taylor Jo Spaeny.

A celebration of Bruce's life will be held at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, April 9 at the Highlands Church, 371 Glasgow Road, Bella Vista, AR. Burial will be in Duluth at a later date. Arrangements are by the Bella Vista Funeral Home & Crematory, 2258 Forest Hills Blvd., Bella Vista, Arkansas.