

Deaths

Col. Kenneth W. Foster, active in county affairs

Col. Kenneth W. Foster, 79, of 1012 Estremadura Drive, died Sunday (Dec. 25, 1983) in L.W. Blake Memorial Hospital.

A memorial service will be at 3 p.m. Jan. 4 in Palma Sola Presbyterian Church, with the Rev. Jack Wolf officiating. Graveside military services will be at Fort Snelling National Cemetery, Minneapolis, Minn. National Cremation Society, Sarasota Chapter, is in charge of arrangements.

Born in Minneapolis, Foster came to this area in 1960 from Orleans, France, where he had served as chief of staff and deputy commander of the U.S. Communications Zone. He had previously served in the Pentagon as executive for the deputy chief of staff for logistics and as undersecretary of the Army on budget work. During the Korean War, he was deputy civil administrator for the Ryuku Islands. He was decorated by three governments for action in World War II.

Locally, he was active in scouting and was a member of the Advisory Board of the Sunnyland Council and the Board of Governors of the Manatee County Boys Development Association. He organized three scout troops (Troops 22 and 102 at Palma Sola Presbyterian Church and Troop 2 in Palmetto for Mexican-American boys) and served as Scoutmaster of Troop 22 for eight years. He was a member of scouting's Order of the Arrow and was awarded the Silver Beaver for his contributions to scouting. He helped in the development of Camp Flying Eagle in eastern Manatee County.

He was a member of the Manatee County Parks and Recreation Board and has represented the county on the Handicapped Committees for the state governor and the president of the United States. In 1973, the County Commission proclaimed him an Honorary Citizen and Ambassador of Good Will and in recognition of his service designated in his honor "The Col. Ken W. Foster Recreation Area," formerly the Lena Road Rifle Range.

He left retirement to assist in the establishment of the county water system and served seven years as assistant county engineer. He organized the county employees' credit union. He designed and constructed the county gun and archery ranges, boat ramps, tennis courts, handball courts, picnic area facilities and artificial fishing reefs for the Parks and Recreation Department on a voluntary basis.

He was a life member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, president emeritus of the Manatee County Gun & Archery Club, and an elder of the Palma Sola Presbyterian Church. He was past president of the Retired Officers Club of Bradenton and the Palma Sola Association, and a member of the Bradenton Country Club.

He is survived by his wife, Colleen "Connie"; two sons, Kenneth W. Jr., of Burnsville, Minn., and Douglas W., of Arvada, Colo.; three sisters, Marie Aubrey of Bellevue, Wash., LaVerne Riss of Williamsburg, Va., and Mabelle Waid of Tulsa, Okla.; eight grandchildren; and nine great-grandchildren.