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Article published Wednesday, May 28, 2008  
JAMES H. TUNISON, 1938-2008

## Businessman was active in Toledo-area community

James H. Tunison, 70, a former co-owner of National Cement Products Co. who for years was active in Toledo and Maumee community affairs and politics, died Monday in the Hospice of Northwest Ohio, Detroit Avenue.

The cause of death was lung cancer, for which he was diagnosed in December, his wife, Judy, said.

Mr. Tunison began at the South Toledo cement firm as a dispatcher in the 1960s, and was a co-owner when the business closed in September, 1993.

His career detoured in the early 1970s when he went to work for Neighborhood Improvement Foundation of Toledo Inc., of which he would later serve as president.

After owning a hardware store in Hillsdale from 1978 to 1980, he moved back to northwest Ohio and rejoined the cement firm.

Mr. Tunison was a longtime member of the Lucas County Republican Party, and ran twice unsuccessfully for Toledo City Council in 1971 and 1973.

He had served as president of the Toledo Jaycees, and during the early 1970s was named one of Toledo's Outstanding Young Men for three consecutive years.

He also received numerous Toledo Community Service awards.

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"He was always a go-getter," Mrs. Tunison said. "He liked being with people and he was a good leader. A lot of the things he was involved in were volunteer work, and he put a lot of hours into it."

The Tunisons moved from Hillsdale to Maumee, and Mr. Tunison was a president of the Maumee Chamber of Commerce in the 1980s. He also made unsuccessful bids for a Maumee council seat in 1985, the board of education in 1991, and for mayor in 1993.

In addition to serving on numerous city and civic committees, Mr. Tunison was a volunteer junior high football coach.

Born in Berkey, Mr. Tunison was president of the first graduating class at Rogers High School in 1957. He attended the University of Detroit and the University of Toledo, and was a first sergeant in the Army Reserves.

Surviving are his wife of 49 years, Judy; daughters, Tami Fowler; Beth Guertin, and Traci Kruger; son, Todd; sister, Judy A. Tunison; 11 grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be after 2 p.m. today in the Walter Funeral Home. Services will be at 10 a.m. tomorrow at Our Lady of Lourdes Church.

The family suggests tributes to the Hospice of Northwest Ohio or the American Heart and Stroke Association.

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