

## Capital Campaign donation – Oren Family Trust

Former Jackson YMCA board member **V. Conway (Con) Oren** passed away Dec. 15, 2019 at home surrounded by family. Both Con and his wife, Lois **Straayer Oren**, had cherished their memories at the Y – and the **Oren Family Trust** is contributing \$10,000 to the Jackson YMCA capital campaign in their honor.

A veteran of World War II, Con obtained a bachelor's degree in agriculture and a master's degree in education, both from **Michigan State University**. Many Y members know him as a lifelong Spartan fan. He was employed by the **Jackson Public Schools** for 30 years as the CO-OP Trade, Industry and Health Services Coordinator, a job he truly loved, his son KC said.

Son **KC Oren** recounted how much the Y meant to his parents. While his dad enjoyed serving on the Y board, it was his time playing racquetball and paddle ball that he cherished the most.

"It was the exercise, camaraderie and challenge of the sport that he truly enjoyed," KC said. "He would look forward to his days on the court with his challenge friends and even into his mid-80's whipping them whenever possible. I know that I won a game or two when I played my dad, but I never won the three-game match set. He was extremely skilled; but it was always in good fun and high spirits playing with my dad."

His mother became active in the Y later in life, he said, particularly after her cancer treatment in the mid '90s and after she went into remission.

"She came to the Y for exercise in the pool and enjoyed her time just relaxing in the water to ease her arthritis pain," he said. "She talked very fondly about her time at the Y later in life before the cancer returned a second time, and she ultimately passed in 2002."

Con and Lois instilled a love of the Y in the five Oren kids, who came to the Y after school for swim lessons. "We enjoyed playing Y-league basketball each year all of the way through high school," he recalled, and enjoyed summer pick-up games during the college years.

He added, "It is the entire Oren family's hope that my mom and dad's donation will continue to pay back (and pay forward) to the entire Jackson community both my parents so dearly loved."