

# James Plaxico, Jr.

October 2, 1924-January 24, 2024

James Plaxico, Jr., 99, was born to James and Mary Plaxico on October 2, 1924, on a farm near Sharon, SC, and passed away on January 24, 2024. His father passed away when Jim was seven. Because Jim's mother placed a high value on education, she made sure Jim was a diligent and dedicated student, making sure he would earn a college degree. During the time Jim attended Clemson University, he would return frequently to his home to help with farm work. Jim was an excellent student and completed his degree early. He served as a member of the Army Air Corps. Jim and Jackie Edwards were married in December 1946. Jackie passed away one month before Jim, just one week short of their 78<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. Jim completed his bachelor's and master's degrees from Clemson, after which he earned his Ph.D. in Agricultural Economics from the University of Minnesota, continuing his strong academic performance. Following the completion of his doctorate, Jim and Jackie moved to Blacksburg, VA, where he taught at Virginia Tech. It is here where their three sons were born: James III, Alan, and David. In 1956, the Plaxico family moved to Stillwater, OK, when Jim accepted a position at Oklahoma State University. Jim became head of the Department of Agricultural Economics. They added a daughter to their family after arriving in Stillwater. Jim had a number of accomplishments during his OSU career, including a year as Program Director for the Ford Foundation in Bogota, Columbia; being named by President Carter as Executive Director of the ASCS Oklahoma office of the Department of Agriculture; being inducted into the Oklahoma Higher Education Hall of Fame; and serving on the BancFirst Board of Directors. One of Jim's former students, Terry Tippens, recently honored Jim by making a financial donation for the James S. Plaxico conference room in the new Agricultural Hall at OSU. Jim also volunteered his time serving the Brown Foundation, the Stillwater Golf and Country Club, and the First Presbyterian Church, in addition to a number of volunteer positions at OSU. Jim and Jackie traveled to the 48 continental states with their children. Once retired, Jim and Jackie made several trips abroad, capitalizing on their interest in being life-long learners. Jim was predeceased by his parents, his wife Jackie, and two sons: James III and Alan. He is survived by his son David and daughter, Cheryl.