

Services Saturday for Gabe Takats - April 4, 2008



Gabor Joseph Takats, a Portland civic leader who was a member of the Indiana Football Hall of Fame and the Ball State University Athletic Hall of Fame, died early today at Persimmon Ridge Care Facility, Portland, following an extended illness. He was 90.

A resident of 503 W. Walnut St., Portland, he moved to Portland in 1951 and began working at what is now Porter-Takats Insurance Agency. He owned and operated the agency until his retirement in 1997.

An Indiana high school football referee for 24 years, he served on the board of the Jay County Boys Club for 30 years and was a member of the Portland Park Board for 30 years.

Born Nov. 23, 1917 in Universal, Ind., in Vermillion County, he was the son of Gabor J. and Mary (Lengyle) Takats Sr.

He graduated in 1936 from Clinton High School, then earned his bachelor's degree in education from Ball State Teachers College in 1940. While at Ball State, he was a member of both the football and baseball teams.

A veteran of World War II, he served with the U.S. Air Force from 1943 to 1946. He then taught and coached at Sullivan High School and taught at Dugger High School before coming to Jay County.

A Boy Scout leader for ten years, he was a longtime member of the Portland Rotary Club, the Portland Area Chamber of Commerce, the Portland Odd Fellows Lodge, the Portland Elks Lodge, Robert Guy Ayers American Legion Post 211, Jay Masonic Lodge No. 87, the Mizpah Temple Shrine of Fort Wayne, the Scottish Rite of Fort Wayne, and was a past president of the Jay County Shriners Club.

A member of Asbury United Methodist Church in Portland, he served for 19 years on the board of the Peoples Bank.

He was elected to the Indiana Football Hall of Fame in 1977 and the Ball State Athletic Hall of Fame in 1985.

He was married on Dec. 21, 1942 to Jo Irene Porter, who survives. Also surviving are a

son, Steve Takats, Portland; two sisters, Mrs. Sam (Helen) Black, Lyford, and Mrs. William (Elizabeth) Jones, Clinton; and three grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday in the Portland Chapel of Williamson and Spencer Funeral Home with Pastor Greg Rittenhouse officiating. Burial will be in Green Park Cemetery, Portland. The American Legion will perform military graveside rites.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8 p.m. Friday at the funeral home. Memorials may be made to the Portland Rockets baseball team or to State of the Heart Hospice.

On-line condolences may be sent to [www.williamson-spencer.com](http://www.williamson-spencer.com).

**Contributed by K - no source listed**