



Elkhart Brass
Fire Fighting Equipment

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Don Sjolin
Elkhart Brass Mfg. Co., Inc.
P.O. Box 1127 - Elkhart, IN 46515
(800) 346-0250 ext. 235
dsjolin@elkhartbrass.com
www.elkhartbrass.com

Elkhart Brass Chairman Passes Away

Elkhart, IN, August 20, 2009 – On Sunday August the 16th, 2009, Russell "Pete" Ashbaugh Jr. , 88, passed away at Elkhart General Hospital. He was surrounded by his loving wife of 61 years, Jeannie, as well as his children and grandchildren.

Pete was born May 23rd, 1921 in Youngstown, Ohio to Russell "Busty" and Thelma "Ted" Ashbaugh. A passionate and accomplished football player, Pete began his storied career under the direction of his father, a former All-American at Brown University and coach at Youngstown South High School in 1938. After a highly successful tenure as South's quarterback, his talent caught the eye of University of Notre Dame recruiters, where he began a lifelong love for and affiliation with the University in the fall of 1941 as a freshman for the Fighting Irish. Pete played under coach Frank Leahy as one of "Leahy's Lads" as a halfback alongside Irish great Angelo Bertelli in the 1941 and 1942 seasons, after which he enlisted in the Army Air Corps to defend his country in the Second World War. Upon the completion of training, he became a member of the 500th Bombardment Group based on the island of Saipan in the Mariana chain of islands. Flying the premier bomber aircraft of the time, the Boeing B-29 Superfortress, Pete survived a 3-year campaign focusing on Japan and the greater Pacific theater.

After honorably serving his country at its darkest hour, Pete returned to South Bend to finish his academic studies and play two more seasons for Notre Dame. Next to Heisman Trophy winner Johnny Lujack, Pete went on to win two consecutive National Titles for the Fighting Irish in their 1946 and 1947 seasons. It was during this time that he met the love of his life Jeannie (Hansen) Ashbaugh, who he married shortly after graduation on June 12, 1948. Following a brief professional career with the Chicago Rockets, an All-American Football Conference team, Pete settled in Jeannie's hometown of Elkhart, Indiana, where he would begin his corporate career under the leadership of Jeannie's father at the Elkhart Brass Manufacturing Company. Pete eventually ascended to the position of President, C.E.O., and Chairman of the Board of Elkhart Brass where he led the company, which was founded by Jeannie's grandfather A.E. Hansen in 1902, onto the global stage as one of the world's premier firefighting equipment manufacturers.

Pete is survived by his wife Jeannie; his four sons: Rusty, Shawn, Hans and Tony; his daughters-in-law: Marilyn, Tina and Juli; as well as his grandchildren: Derek, Peter, Heidi, Alex and Hanna. Pete belonged to many clubs and organizations in Elkhart, South Bend and Florida. Friends may call from 3 to 5 P.M. on Wednesday at the Hartzler-Gutermuth-Inman Funeral Home at 403 West Franklin Street in Elkhart, Indiana. Funeral services will be held at 10 A.M. on Thursday at the First Presbyterian Church in Elkhart with private family graveside services at Rice Cemetery.

About Elkhart Brass

Elkhart Brass Mfg. Co., Inc. is a leading manufacturer of innovative firefighting equipment. They have been owned and operated by the same family since they were founded in 1902. Elkhart Brass manufactures firefighting nozzles, water cannons, valves, fireground appliances, foam eductors, and apparatus fittings, as well as accessories for many of these components.

Elkhart Brass Chairman, Pete Ashbaugh, passes away at age 88.