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## CHARLES ZIMMER



Charles K. Zimmer, 87, died Oct. 15, 2010, at Central Baptist Hospital in Lexington, Ky.

Born Dec. 20, 1922, in Pine Grove, Pa., he was a son of the late Ethel and Charles H. Zimmer.

The family moved to Reading, in 1928, right before the Great Depression. Charles graduated from Reading High School in 1941, and served his country during World War II from 1942 to 1946. He was in the U.S. Army, 379th Infantry Regiment, 95th Division and 284th Field Artillery Battalion. He served in the European theater and also served in Scotland, England, Belgium, Holland, Luxemburg, Germany,

and France.

For a period during the war, Charles served under Gen. Patton. He was wounded twice and was in a hospital in Paris, France, when the war ended. He was awarded the Purple Heart, Good Conduct, American Campaign, European African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with two Bronze Stars and World War II Victory medals.

After World War II ended, Charles returned to Reading. On the GI bill, he attended and graduated from Wyomissing Polytechnic Institute with a degree in mechanical engineering. While working at the Berkshire Knitting Mills, he met and married Ruth Kachel, a daughter of Helen and the Rev. Dr. Charles Kachel, on June 19, 1948.

He joined IBM in Poughkeepsie, N.Y., in 1953, and worked in research and development. He was involved in the company's initial development of computers and also maintained the early mainframe computers at MIT. He and his family moved to Lexington in 1965. While with IBM Lexington, he helped with development of ink jet printer technology. He retired from IBM Lexington in 1987.

He was a devoted husband and a kind and loving father, grandfather, and friend. He was a good listener and storyteller with an easy smile. An avid sports fan, he loved to watch the Cincinnati Reds and University of Kentucky teams. He was a longtime member of Stonewall Wesleyan Church.

He is survived by his loving and devoted wife of 62 years, Dr. Ruth Zimmer; sons, James Marshall Zimmer, Lexington; Jeffrey William Zimmer and John Charles Zimmer, both of Durham, N.C.; grandchildren: Helen C. Zimmer, Ian K. Zimmer, and Molly Ann Charlie Zimmer, all of Durham, N.C.; sister, Jeanette Salerno, Mohrsville; three nieces, Sandy Zimmer, who was like a daughter to him; Susan Jones, and Mary Jo Paine, all of Pa.; two daughter-in-laws, Karen Kemp and Jamie Zimmer, both of Durham, N.C.; There is also a sister-in-law, a brother-in-law, nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his sister, June E. Goebel; and two brothers, Gerald and Paul Zimmer.

A short funeral service will be held at 4:30 p.m. Friday, Oct. 22, at Kerr Brothers Funeral Home, 3421 Harrodsburg Road, Lexington, KY 40513. A visitation will be held from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Another visitation will be held Monday, Oct. 25, from noon to 1 p.m. at Cramp Funeral Home, 934 Centre Ave., Reading, PA 19601. The burial service will be at St. Paul's UCC Cemetery, Pine Grove, PA.

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