Beloved husband and father, Donald James Hunter, 81, of Winona, died Tuesday, March 23, 2010, at home surrounded by his family. Don was born Feb. 17, 1929, in Joliet, Ill., to James and Ruth Hunter. He grew up on the family farm in Frankfort, Ill., first receiving his education in a one-room schoolhouse. Later, he attended Bloom Township High School in Chicago Heights, Ill. He graduated as valedictorian of his class in 1948. In 1952, he graduated from the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, receiving his bachelor's of science degree in agricultural education. He went on to earn his PhD in agricultural economics in 1967, while teaching at Iowa State University. After this time, he became head of the economics department at Ursinus College in Pennsylvania. Returning to the Midwest, he accepted a position as professor of economics at Winona State University in 1974 and taught in this capacity until his retirement in 1989, after an earlier battle with cancer.

Don married his high school sweetheart, Barbara Alice Bickley, on March 15, 1952, at the First Presbyterian Church in Homewood, Ill. Donald was a loving husband and father to his four children - taking them on summer camping trips to points of interest in the USA. Don and Barbara shared an interest in other cultures, befriending and hosting guests from countries including India, Ghana, Sweden, and Japan. Don enjoyed sharing slides and photos with his family.

Throughout his life, he maintained an interest in the farming community and kept up with the latest trends. Until he was limited by health problems, he was an active member of his church, serving on councils and singing in the choir. He was also active in civic organizations, including the Rotary Club of Winona and serving as a board member of the Southeastern Minnesota Initiative Fund.

Don is survived by his devoted wife of 58 years, Barbara; his son, Daniel (Sue) Hunter of Port Edwards, Wis.; daughters, Kathleen (Scott) Ailts of Alpharetta, Ga., Jeanette (Dave) Walter of Bellevue, Neb., and Britta (Rob) McColl of Fountain City, Wis.; and grandchildren, Daniel, David, and Elizabeth Hunter, Samuel and Lauren Ailts, William, Greta, Katherine and Rebecca Walter, and Neil, Peter, Ben, Bruce, Scott, Linnea, and Fiona McColl. He was preceded in death by his parents.

The funeral service will be at Faith Lutheran Church at 2 p.m. Friday, March 26. Pastor Mark Dumke will officiate. Visitation will be held one hour prior to the service. Interment will be at Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona.

The family wishes to express their sincere gratitude for the special care Don received by the staff of the Winona Clinic and Health Hospice Services. Words of sympathy or remembrance may be left at www.fawcett-junkerfuneralhome.com. Services are entrusted to Fawcett-Junker Funeral Home and Cremation Services, Winona.