

Standard Form For Members of the Legislature

Name of Representative Messersby Francis Latem Senator Messersby
Francis Latem - Represented Blackhawk County, Iowa

1. Birthday and place 21 Apr 1914/1915 Cedar Falls, Iowa

2. Marriage (s) date place

Mary Irene Kunkler 18 July 1937 Cedar Rapids, Iowa

3. Significant events for example:

A. Business

B. Civic responsibilities Mason; Iowa Bureau; Rotary; Shriners

C. Profession Owned and operated Jerichford General Store 1937-1949;
politician; farmer; investment manager; business building contractor

4. Church membership Jerichford Community Church

5. Sessions served 59th 60th General Assemblies 1961, 1963 - House of Representatives

6. Public Offices 61st, 62nd, 63rd General Assemblies 1965, 1967, 1969-1970 - Senate

A. Local Blackhawk County supervisor 1950-1960 and 1976-1988

B. State

C. National

7. Death 8 Oct 1994 Cedar Falls Iowa; buried Jerichford Cemetery Black Hawk County Iowa

8. Children Carol (Mrs. Necker); Randy

9. Names of parents Edward and Essie (Lawrence) Messersby

10. Education He was educated in the public schools in Cedar Falls,
Iowa, graduated from Imhoff, Iowa

11. Degrees _____

12. Other applicable information Republican

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... mother; four brothers,
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... Methodist Church, with
... Church Funeral Home,

Friday, Oct. 8, at Allen

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Marvel Schmidt

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... from 2 to 7 p.m. today at

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... f Charles A. and Anna L.
... in 1935 in Waterloo; she

... at John Deere Waterloo

... gene E. of Buffalo, N.Y.,
... en; and five great-grand-

... l Gene; and three sisters,

... Home, Cedar Falls, with
... 1 to 5 p.m. today at the

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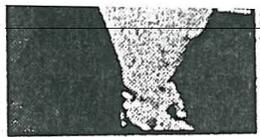


James Boyd

Survived by: a son, Harold D. Moore of Waterloo; a
grandson; and a brother, Frank D. Smith of Waterloo.

Services: 1 p.m. Monday at O'Keefe & Towne-Grarup &
Waychoff Funeral Home, with burial in Oran Cemetery.
Friends may call from 2 to 6 p.m. today and from 9 a.m.
until services Monday at the funeral home.

Memorials: directed to the family.



Ethel Blum

See story, page B5

CEDAR FALLS — **Francis E. Messerly**, 80, of Cedar Falls, died Sat-
urday, Oct. 8, at Sartori Memorial Hospital of respiratory
failure.

He was born April 21, 1914, in Cedar Falls, son of
Edward and Essie Lawrence Messerly. He married Mary I.
Hamilton on July 8, 1937, in Cedar Rapids.

Mr. Messerly owned and operated the Finchford General
Store from 1937 to 1949. He served in county and state
government for 36 years and was both state representative
and senator. He also served several terms as Black Hawk
County supervisor.

Survived by: his wife; a daughter, Carol Nesler of
Dubuque; a son, Randy of Sarasota, Fla.; six grandchildren;
and a brother, Robert of Janesville.

Preceded in death by: three brothers, Charles, John and Roger; and a sister,
Dorothy Waldorf.

Services: 2:30 p.m. Monday at the Finchford Community Church, with burial
in the Finchford Cemetery. Friends may call from 1 to 8 p.m. today at the
Richardson Funeral Home, Cedar Falls, with the family present from 2 to 4 p.m.,
and an hour before services Monday at the church.

Memorials: directed to the Finchford Community Church.



**Francis
Messerly**

CEDAR FALLS — **Kenneth O. Emerson**, 85, of 315 Clair St., died
Saturday, Oct. 8, at Sartori Memorial Hospital of natural
causes.

He was born June 16, 1909, in Charles City, son of Ethel-
bert L. and Edith M. Lee Emerson. He married Rosa Vining
July 20, 1944, in Mason City.

Mr. Emerson worked for a motor company in Chico,
Calif., as an auto mechanic until his retirement in 1971,
when he returned to Cedar Falls.

Survived by: his wife; two daughters, Donna Klingfuuss
of Cedar Falls and Diane Vajgret of San Diego; eight grand-
children; and eight great-grandchildren.

Preceded in death by: two brothers, Clifford and
Howard; and two sisters, Jessie Davy and Lelah Bunn.

Services: 1 p.m. Tuesday at Richardson Funeral Home, with burial in Cedar
Valley Memorial Gardens. Friends may call from 4 to 8 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m.
to service time Tuesday.

Memorials: directed to the family.



**Kenneth
Emerson**

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Source: Iowa Territorial and State Legislature. Compiled by the Iowa State Historical Society, Iowa.

Friends recall Messerly's dedication

Former state lawmaker and county supervisor dead at age 80.

By **TIM JAMISON**
Courier Staff Writer

CEDAR FALLS — Legendary Black Hawk County politician Francis Messerly was remembered by friends and former colleagues as a man who dedicated most of his adult life to the people he was elected to serve.

The former county supervisor and Iowa lawmaker died Saturday at Sartori Memorial Hospital of respiratory failure. He was 80.

"There was only one Francis Messerly," said Frank Mollenhoff, a colleague for eight years on the Board of Supervisors. "When they made him, they threw away the pattern."

Messerly, a Republican, served on the Board of Supervisors from 1950 to 1960 and again from 1976 to 1988. Between his board tenures, he was elected to three terms in the Iowa House of Representatives and one term in the Iowa Senate, where he chaired the powerful Appropriations Committee.

As a politician, Messerly earned a reputation as a fiscal conservative who engaged in several well-publicized debates with his colleagues.

"While he would carry the respect of anyone in public office and public service, he also riled his opponents," said Chris Harshbarger, a close family friend. "He championed the underdog and wanted to make sure that people got everything they deserved for their tax dollars."

Harshbarger, an advertising



Francis Messerly

■ **Obituary — page B6**

executive and the former director of the Hawkeye Valley Area Agency on Aging, said he learned firsthand that it was best to be prepared when dealing with Messerly in the political arena.

"My first meeting with Francis was about 20 years ago — he as a supervisor and me as a bureaucrat asking for money," he said. "His reputation hadn't reached me yet.

"He was asking me questions that I never expected anyone would ask. He kind of had a way of picking you up by the nape of the neck and carrying you off. After that happened, I decided that was never going to happen again."

But Harshbarger eventually developed a close personal relationship with Messerly.

"Privately, you saw a more personal side of Francis and his real

compassion for people. He really devoted his entire life to the service of others and really had a love for the American way."

Waterloo Mayor John Roof served four years with Messerly on the Board of Supervisors and considered him a mentor.

"I learned quite a bit from Francis," Roof said. "Probably the most important thing I learned was how to make a presentation.

"Francis never asked you a question that he didn't already know the answer to. He was probably one of the more prepared people in public office that I ever knew."

Rachel Fulton often found herself opposing Messerly when the two shared time on the Board of Supervisors.

"I still had a lot of respect for him because he always spoke his mind," Fulton said. "Even though we didn't see eye to eye on many things, I still enjoyed my time on the board with him. He had a lot of strong opinions, but you always knew where he stood."

After retiring from public office in 1988, Messerly developed "a great hobby of farming," Harshbarger said.

"He particularly looked forward to this year's harvest. He was in the fields (Thursday) watching the corn grow, and he remarked that the crop was going to bust the axles off the trucks.

"The significance of the bumper crop was as good as any symbol of his life there is," Harshbarger said. "Anyone that knew Francis knows he has yielded a bumper crop that would bust the axles off any truck. I think this entire county ought to take a pause for him."

IGI Individual Record

FamilySearch™ International Genealogical Index v5.0

North America

Francis LaVern Messerly

Male

[Pedigree](#)[Family](#)

Event(s):**Birth:** 21 APR 1914 Cedar Falls, Black Hawk, Iowa**Christening:****Death:** 08 OCT 1994 Cedar Falls, Black Hawk, Iowa**Burial:** Finchford Cemetery, Cedar Falls, Black Hawk, Iowa

Marriages:**Spouse:** [Mary Irene Hamlin](#)[Family](#)**Marriage:** 18 JUL 1937 Manchester, Delaware, Iowa

Messages:

Record submitted after 1991 by a member of the LDS Church. No additional information is available.
Ancestral File may list the same family and the submitter.

Source Information:No source information is available.

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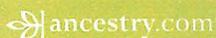
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Francis L Messerly

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Birth: 1914
Death: 1994

Family links:
Spouse:
Mary I Messerly (1912 - 1999)

Burial:
[Finchford Cemetery](#)
Finchford
Black Hawk County
Iowa, USA

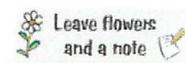
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Francis L Messerly

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