

Long-time Rotarian, Frank Sower, with 64 years of perfect attendance, died Thursday, February 23, 2012.



Obituary: Frank W. Sower died Thursday night, February 23. He was 101 years old and is survived by his wife of 74 years, Minnie Lynn Evans Sower, and three children, Frank W. Sower, Jr., (Judy), Lynn Sower Bufkin (Mike), and John R. Sower (Phyllis), nine grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren.

He was involved in civic, educational and charitable affairs throughout his life, including Mayor of Frankfort 1968-1972 and author of Reflections on Frankfort 1751-1900. He was a graduate of Kentucky Military Institute and Northwestern University and the owner-operator of retail hardware and office equipment businesses in Frankfort from 1937-1983. During World War II, he served in the southwest Pacific as a naval officer.

The Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10 a.m. on Monday, Feb 27 at Good Shepherd Church, Frankfort, with interment immediately following at the Frankfort Cemetery. Friends may pay their respects on Sunday, Feb. 26 from 1 to 5 p.m. at Rogers Funeral Home with a Scripture Vigil-Remembrance Service at 4:30 p.m. followed by a Rosary Recitation.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests memorial contributions to the Frank W. Sower Community Foundation, P. O. Box 453, Frankfort, KY 40602.

[State-Journal](#): Former Frankfort Mayor and philanthropist Frank Sower died Thursday night at Ashwood Place. He was 101.

Sower and his wife of 74 years, Minnie Lynn, have generously given to Frankfort's youth, the elderly and community projects.

The longtime businessman owned Sower's Office Supply downtown with his son, John Sower, until the shop closed in 2008. His death likely stemmed from pneumonia, John Sower told The State Journal this morning.

"He loved the Capital City with all his heart, but he loved his family and our Lord even more," said John Sower, who followed in his father's footsteps to run the family business and serve as mayor of Frankfort.

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During World War II, Frank served in the Navy as a lieutenant in the Pacific. The hardware store was closed during his tour of duty. Upon returning from service in 1946, he reopened the hardware store and added an office equipment business.

He was elected mayor in 1968 and served a four-year term.

Sower was one of the organizers of the chamber of commerce and served as its first president. He served as president of the Frankfort Rotary Club, the Kentucky Historical Society and the Executive Board of the Frankfort Salvation Army.

The Rotary Club honored him in 2010 for his 64 years of perfect attendance.

Dennis Van Horn, a past president of Rotary, said Sower was an inspiration. The 63-year-old says he hopes to someday surpass his mentor's age by living to 110.

Sower celebrated his 100th birthday in 2010 with a surprise party hosted by the Frankfort Rotary Club. Minnie Lynn was by his side, awaiting her own century mark about a month later.

[Also, from the 2010 State Journal article:](#) Russ Hatter, Frankfort historian and assistant curator of the Frankfort Museum, provided the details of Sower's activities in the community and says Sower was much more than just Frankfort's mayor for four years.

“He has a wonderful legacy to this community and the state. He was a businessman, helped create the Frankfort Chamber of Commerce, a dedicated Rotarian, former President of the Kentucky Historical Society, an author of his own recollections on the history of Frankfort and was on the boards of many charities such as the Y and Salvation Army.”

Hatter said when he came to Frankfort 45 years ago to work at WFKY in the news department, it was Frank he turned to for background and who knew the history of Frankfort. “If I had a question, he was always ready not only to give an answer, but to share his invigorating smile and encouragement,” he said.

But it is Sower's birth that captivates Hatter.

“Frank was baptized at the Good Shepherd Church on Wapping Street by a Confederate soldier who had ridden with John Hunt Morgan's raiders.”

The Civil War veteran, who became the Rev. Thomas Major, was treated and cared for by nuns after he was wounded, captured and hospitalized. “It was their influence that led him to become a priest and that service eventually led him to Good Shepherd.”

Visitation for Frank Sower is 1-5 p.m. Sunday at Rogers Funeral Home. The funeral mass will take place at Good Shepherd Catholic Church Monday at 10 a.m. Burial will follow in Frankfort Cemetery.

[Frank Sower](#)