



## **James F. Rippey**

James F. Rippey was raised in Coos Bay and graduated from Marshfield High School in 1949 and from the University of Oregon, with a degree in business administration in 1953. While at the University of Oregon, he was a member of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity where he served as president his senior year. Jim was fortunate to meet his future bride during spring term of their senior year at the University of Oregon. He received his master's degree from New York University in 1954. Jim married his wife of 61 years, Shirley Jerene Kendall, Oct. 3, 1954.

Mr. Rippey went to work at Merrill Lynch in New York City. After two years, he was transferred to Portland. In 1961, Jim and Jerry Inskeep started Columbia Management Company in 1964. In 1967, Columbia established Oregon's first mutual fund, Columbia Growth Fund. The company grew to approximately 250 employees in Portland. He and his partners sold the firm to Fleet Financial in 1997. In addition to his commitments to Columbia, Jim held leadership roles in the community with the St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center Foundation, Portland Rotary, Auld Lang Syne Society and University of Oregon Foundation among others. Jim was honored with receiving the Lundquist College of Business Visionary Alumni Award in 2003 and the University of Oregon Pioneer Award in 2004. He and Shirley jointly received the Simon Benson Award from Portland State University in 2010. Jim and Shirley Rippey established the JFR Foundation in 1993. The family foundation supports education, children's services and youth development in Oregon.

Jim said that Coos Bay was a great place to grow up. He had many fond memories of Marshfield High School and his experiences as the team manager for Pete Susick's football team and the Pirates basketball team. After retiring, Jim was a dedicated advocate and philanthropist, supporting a number of nonprofits including the MHS Community & Memorial Vocational/Technical Scholarship Program. Since 2004, many MHS graduates have been given the opportunity to pursue their post high school educational goals in a Voc/Tech field, through his generous contributions to the program. "That's the future of our country; we are dependent on young people and education," Jim said of his foundation's philanthropic efforts.

Jim Rippey passed away Feb. 27, 2016.