

## **JAMES C CHURCH (PHS 1942)**

James C. Church graduated from Portage High School in 1942 and, following service in the U.S. Army, went on to become a design engineer in the development of the Apollo spacecraft and the planning for the moon landing. Mr. Church enlisted in the U.S. Army and, at the age of 19, his Army Infantry Unit landed on Omaha Beach in 1944 in Normandy, France. Just a few months later, Mr. Church also fought in the Battle of the Bulge. After World War II, Mr. Church graduated from the University of Wisconsin in 1949 with a degree in electrical engineering. In the 1950's, Mr. Church was employed at Aerospace Corporation and was a senior systems engineer in the secret VELA satellite program designed to secretly monitor the Soviet Union and their compliance with nuclear testing. In the 1960's, Mr. Church moved on to The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) in Houston, Texas where he held various positions including manager of the Guidance & Control Branch, manager of Control Operations and project officer for both the guidance and navigation systems and Apollo's Lunar Surface Experiment Program. Following his employment with NASA, Mr. Church worked at Honeywell's Space Flight Systems Division and then became the head of ergonomics research for the U.S. Bureau of Mines at their Twin Cities Research Center in Minnesota. Mr. Church passed away in April 2009.