



Grant Lucas Memorial Award

On April 26, 2014 the community of Ceres said goodbye to Grant Talmage Lucas, a long-time Ceres farmer, former Ceres school board trustee and member of a pioneer Ceres family. He passed at the age of 91 and today we again, want to offer our condolences to Mildred Lucas and the entire Lucas family.

Born on August 1, 1922 in a Modesto hospital, Grant was the son of Garland T. "Doc" Lucas and Irva Schrider Lucas. He grew up in Ceres where his grandfather Newell Lucas settled in 1908. He was a 1940 graduate of Ceres High School and was drafted into the Army while attending Modesto Junior College. His only absence from Ceres was to train in the Army and serve in World War II.

After his duty ended, Grant was ordered back to the U.S. to be sent on a mission to help fight the Japanese in the Pacific. On his way to California by train, however, peace was declared and Grant was discharged from the Army.

Upon his return to Ceres he changed his career choice from that of a chemist to a farmer working alongside his father. Gradually, he acquired his own farmland which he tended to until he was 80 years of age.

Always active in the community Grant was a member of the Ceres Lions Club, Ceres Chamber of Commerce, and served eight years on the very first Ceres Unified School District board of trustees in 1965. He was honored as the Ceres Citizen of the Year and the Agribusiness Man of the Year by the Ceres Chamber of Commerce, and along with Mildred, was the namesake of Lucas Elementary School.

Grant also served for many years as a director and chairman of Farm Credit Bank boards locally, regionally and nationally. And, in December 1985, he was honored by Pres. Ronald Reagan for his work with Congress and amending the Farm Credit Act.

In honor of Grant Lucas and all of his contributions to the ag industry and to the Ceres community in whole, the Ceres Chamber Board of Directors this year has established the Grant Lucas Memorial Award for Ag Industry Leader of the Year. The meaning behind this award is to recognize an individual who has contributed to strengthen and enhance the local ag community and portrays exemplary character of a leader in the ag industry.