

Albert James Rasmussen
Nominated by Rick Rasmussen

Albert James Rasmussen was born on September 20, 1895 in Marshfield, Wisconsin, the fourth child of James Christian Rasmussen and Karen Anderson Rasmussen. He was a retired U.S. Army Major and a veteran of both World War I and World War II. In civilian life he was a banker and investment broker starting his career in the First National Bank in 1912. He then became assistant cashier at the Central State Bank of Marshfield, (now BMO Harris Bank). He held this position until 1933 at which time he founded Rasmussen Investment Service while remaining a director of the bank.

His military career began for him when, as a Mess Sergeant with the 2nd regiment of the National Guard, his unit was mustered into federal service in June 1916 for duty in the Mexican border campaign. He continued his army affiliation through World War I serving in Europe as a First Sergeant and assistant band director and drum major for the 127th Infantry.



Following WWI, many veterans in the Marshfield area formed a temporary organization of American war veterans to, among other things, offer aid and assistance to local needy veterans and their families. Albert was involved with this venture from the start. The local organization which would eventually become the American Legion Post 54 was organized June 18, 1919 with A. J. Rasmussen being named to the finance committee. He was among the original signers of the application for charter in August of 1919.

He married Eunice Drollinger on October 8, 1923. She entered the brokerage business with her husband and became, at that time, the only woman licensed by the state of Wisconsin as a securities dealer. She maintained the investment business while he was deployed overseas during WWII. He and Eunice had one son, James Albert, born October 24, 1925.

He continued his work at the bank and investment service, as well as continuing to serve with the 135th Medical Regiment as Warrant Officer and band leader. He directed the summer concert series in Marshfield with the 135th Medical Regiment Band until the onset of World War II.

At that time, he was promoted to the rank of Captain and served his country commanding a medical detachment in Australia and New Guinea where the men under his leadership built and maintained an army hospital in the jungle. While in New Guinea he was stricken with a bad sinus infection which nearly took his life and rendered him blind. After partially regaining his sight he returned to the United States in 1944 and later retired from military service with the rank of Major.

In civilian life he continued to promote and assist veterans' causes, growing his investment business and enjoying his family and grandchildren.

Albert James Rasmussen (Major, U.S. Army, retired) passed away on July 4, 1956.