

## Biography

# JAMES W. DAMON

Grand Exalted Ruler

1990-1991

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James Damon was born in Pasadena, California on February 22, 1929. In 1937, his family moved to Mt. Vernon, Oregon where he completed elementary and high school. He enlisted in the United States Air Force in 1947, serving with the Air Training Command and the 20th Air Force Heavy Bomb Group, before being honorably discharged in 1950.

After returning home, he became manager of the local telephone company. In the past 40 years he has proven his business ability and is now President and CEO of Oregon Telephone Corporation as well as North-State Telephone Co. and North State Cablevision Co. Brother Damon is a Past President of the Oregon Independent Telephone Association and the Western Rural Telephone Association. He serves on the Board of Directors of the United States Telephone Association as well as a variety of related committees. He was honored in his business field by being presented with the Outstanding Service Recognition Award in 1978. He has been active in civic affairs having served on the Mt. Vernon City Council, District #6 School Board and Chairman of the Blue Mountain Hospital District, among others.

Brother Damon joined John Day Lodge No. 1824, as a Charter Member in 1950, serving on its first Board of Trustees, Chairman in 1954-55. He served as Exalted Ruler in 1961-62 and is the first member of his Lodge to be voted as Honorary Life Member, a distinction awarded him in 1974.

Brother Damon served the Oregon State Elks Association with distinction: rising through its ranks to President in 1974-75, served on its major project committee for seven years, was instrumental in the formation of the Oregon Federated Organization of the O.S.E.A. in 1977, and served as Chairman of the State Government Relations Committee from 1978 to 1984. His dedication and distinguished leadership was recognized by his selection to the O.S.E.A. Hall of Fame in 1983.

He has served our Order on the Grand Lodge Level as District Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler 1965-66; Americanism Committee for three years, Chairman in 1976-78; served on the Government Relations Committee from its inception in 1979 until 1984. Following this, he was elected to a four-year term on the Board of Grand Trustees, serving as its Vice-Chairman in 1987-88. In 1989-90, prior to assuming the role of Grand Exalted Ruler, he faithfully carried out the duties of Special Deputy Grand Exalted Ruler with distinction.