



SKEELS, JOHN VINCENT, "JACK," 75, of Louisville, passed away Tuesday, December 20, 2005, at his home. He was born October 11, 1930 in Bauxite, AR, to Walter S. and Jean Judge Skeels, both deceased. Mr. Skeels served in the U.S. Air Force until 1952. He graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1956. He served in Louisville as the Kentucky state representative for the National Foundation/ March of Dimes. In 1964, he became executive director of their Dade County, FL, Chapter. From 1964-1984 Mr. Skeels was a representative for the giftware firm, The Ira A. Jones Company. In 1990, he began publishing "The Village Exchange," a newsletter for collectors of Department 56 Inc. lighted villages. In 2001, he was honored by the company for his role in helping to establish a National Council of "56" clubs, an umbrella organization for all the individual Department 56 collector clubs in the USA and Canada. A special lighted building aptly titled "Jack's Umbrella Shop" was offered to club members the following year. He is survived by one sister, Martha Ellen and several nieces and nephews. "An outgoing and generous person, he will be fondly remembered by his many friends across the country." Memorial gifts may be made to Habitat for Humanity or the Ronald McDonald house.