

# S&L leader lobbied for vet home loans

Norman W. Strunk, who was the chief executive officer of the U.S. League of Savings Associations, died Thursday at the Medical College of Ohio Hospital. He was 86.

Mr. Strunk had Alzheimer's disease. The family did not know the exact cause of death.

He moved to Swan Creek Retirement Village in Toledo seven years ago to be closer to his daughter, Jeanne Dennler.

Jeff Dennler, Mr. Strunk's grandson, said the league expanded during his grandfather's tenure "to be one of the most influential and highly respected lobbying groups in Washington, and its member institutions became the largest lenders for home loans in the world."

One of the league's biggest functions was to lobby on behalf of the savings and loan industry, he said.

Mr. Strunk's most successful lobbying achievements included federal legislation allowing veterans home loans and the creation of the 1099 tax form, Mr. Dennler said.

Born in Mexico, Mo., Mr. Strunk received his bachelor's degree in business in 1937 and his master's in business administration in 1938 from Northwestern University.

He began his career with the league in 1938 as a research assistant.

During World War II, Mr.

Strunk worked for the Office of Strategic Services, which later became the Central Intelligence Agency.

"In the OSS, he primarily helped train Germans who wanted to go back to Germany and sabotage infrastructure," Mr. Dennler said. "Mostly they were Jewish people who were eager to go back and do that."

At the end of the war, Mr. Strunk moved to Chicago and resumed his work for the league, Mr. Dennler said.

He became the chief executive officer of the group in 1953.

"Under his leadership, the league's membership grew from 500 savings and loan institutions to over 3,000," his grandson said.

Mr. Strunk retired from the league in 1979.

After his retirement, he was elected secretary general of the International Union of Building Societies and Savings Associations.

Mr. Strunk's wife of 61 years, Marion, died in 2002.

Surviving are daughter, Jeanne Dennler; son, Robert, and his brother, Marvin Strunk.

A memorial service will be at 11 a.m. Saturday at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Maumee.

The family suggests tributes to the church or Swan Creek Retirement Village.

Arrangements were by Maison-Dardenne-Walker Funeral Home in Maumee.