Kenneth K. Fake’s last prayer, to be reunited with His Lord in Heaven and dance with his beloved Phyllis again, was answered on April 21, 2018, when he passed peacefully, “his girls” at his side, at his Bay Village residence in Sarasota, Florida. He was 88. He approached his death with curiosity, not fear, and with the same determination, stubbornness and faithfulness he demonstrated in life. Ken was an adoring husband, loving father and grandfather, sincere friend, natural salesman, honest and hardworking businessman, forward-thinking investor, devoted church steward and a true advocate for the communities in which he resided. Ken was born on July 27, 1929, in Cobleskill, to Eva Kling and Kenneth Hearn Fake, a New York State Assemblyman and historian. He started working early in life, for a butcher and a mortician as a young boy, and as a Howe Caverns tour guide in his teens. He developed the uncanny habit of following village fire trucks to the scene, perhaps a foreshadowing of his decision to enter the insurance profession. His sister Margaret, who preceded him in death, taught him to dance when swing was the thing. With long legs, an engaging smile and a head full of curls, he was a natural. Following graduation from Nichols College in Dudley, Massachusetts, Ken enlisted in the US Air Force, “flying the desk” from 1950-1953 as a Staff Sergeant and statistician at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona. In Tucson, he met the auburn-haired ad copywriter Phyllis Smith (“Torchy”). While much shorter than he, they danced magnificently together. They married in 1953 in her hometown of Toledo, Ohio, and established their household in Cobleskill. Ken joined his father at the Kenneth Fake Agency, which he later purchased and operated from 1963-1977. Among his clients were the dairy and agricultural farmers in rural Schoharie County, whose livelihoods he endeavored to safeguard. He earned his Chartered Property Casualty Underwriter (CPCU) professional designation in 1965 and served as president of the Northeastern New York CPCU Society Chapter. Ken was raised to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason by The Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the State of New York, Cobleskill Lodge No. 394 F. & A.M., on January 22, 1952. Ken and Phyllis adopted two baby girls, Kyle Whitney and Melissa Lansing, and the family worshipped at Zion Lutheran Church. He was an active Rotarian, and worked tirelessly with village and town officials and residents to shape Cobleskill’s future development in line with its history, aesthetics and values. In search of better business opportunities, Ken moved his family to Sarasota in 1977 and joined the Ernest Smith Insurance Agency. He earned his CPCU credentials in Florida and was elected president of the Florida Suncoast CPCU Society Chapter. He retired in 1995, but no grass grew beneath his feet. Ken consulted privately on long-term care and life insurance, was active in the Sarasota Keys Rotary Club

and managed Sarasota Habitat for Humanity’s insurance matters on a pro bono basis. He and Phyllis traveled and attended cultural events, were active members at St. Armand’s Key Lutheran Church and Church of the Palms, and often visited their grandson, niece and nephew in Houston. They built and decorated their ninth house in the northeast in honor of their 50th wedding anniversary in 2003, the year of his first cancer diagnosis. In early 2005, Ken and Phyllis moved into Bay Village, where Ken advised residents on Medicare and insurance matters through informal workshops. He spearheaded a letterwriting campaign to protest the Florida Legislature’s proposed tax on food served in senior facilities. Ken served on Bay Village’s Residents’ Council and, as a representative to the Bay Village board’s finance committee, he petitioned for more realistic investments of the corporation’s endowment. The role he most relished was as board member and president of the Bay Village chapter of the Florida Life Care Residents Association, an organization that is the sole advocate for quality of life in state senior communities. He was later elected regional director, a position he served in for only a few months due to a cancer recurrence. Despite his illness, Ken had fun at Bay Village, where he found bridge and golf partners, and demonstrated his keen eye-arm coordination at the pool table and on the shuffleboard court. He was well-known for his costumes each Halloween and his taste for Chivas. Most importantly, he found support and companionship during Phyllis’s 10-year long goodbye due to Alzheimer’s until her death in 2015. Ken is survived by daughter, Melissa Fake Owens and son-in-law, Andrew D. Owens, Jr. of Sarasota; daughter, Kyle Fake Seydler; and grandson John Kenneth Seydler, both of Houston, Texas. A Celebration of Life service is slated for Saturday, May 5 at 2:30pm in the auditorium at Bay Village, 8400 Vamo Road in Sarasota. According to his wishes and in honor of his lifelong love for jazz, the event will feature the Al Hixon Jazz Group, and dancing. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Zion Lutheran Church, 615 East Main Street, Cobleskill, NY 12043.