James Ninestine, DeSales supporter, 1985 'graduate'

James Ninestine, a longtime supporter of DeSales High School as well as a daily communicant at St. Francis de Sales Parish and former Ontario County supervisor, died of heart failure at Auburn Memorial Hospital on Thursday, April 16, 1992. He was 90.

"It was a big heart," said his son, Donald C. Ninestine of Geneva. "It was used a lot."

Born in Geneva on Dec. 26, 1901, Mr. Ninestine attended DeSales High School just one year before he left to take a position with the Geneva Cutlery, Co. when his father lost his job.

He married the late Emma Burgess on June 30, 1926. The couple had two children: Donald and Robert, who died in 1990.

A lifelong member of St. Francis de Sales Parish, Mr. Ninestine was a daily communicant for more than 50 years. In addition to serving as past president of the Holy Name Society, he was an usher for more than 50 years.

Even though he did not finish his

studies at DeSales High School, Mr. Ninestine's two children and six grandchildren all graduated from the Catholic high school.

In recognition of his dedication to the school, he was given an honorary degree in 1985 — the year Ed Ninestine, his youngest grandson, graduated from the school.

Long active in politics, he also served on the county board of supervisors for 22 years, and as a member of the Geneva City Council for four years.

In addition to his son and the six grandchildren, Mr. Ninestine is survived five great-grandchildren and

several nieces and nephews. A memorial Mass was held May 3 at Geneva's St. Francis De Sales Church. Interment was at St. Patrick's

Cemetery in Geneva on April 18. Donations in the memory of James Ninestine may be made to the DeSales High School Memorial Fund or the St. Francis Renovation Fund.

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