



John David Kroening

June 6, 1923 - December 13, 2016

John David Kroening, age 93, of Seaford DE, passed away on Tuesday, December 13, 2016, at the Delaware Veterans Home in Milford, DE. He was born in Baltimore, MD, on Wednesday, June 6, 1923, son of the late John Kroening and Laura Bliss Fairley.

Mr. Kroening proudly served in the United States Army Air Corps during World War II as part of the 12th Air Force, 57th Bomb Wing, 340th Bombardment Group and the 488th Squadron. His boyhood love of airplanes drove him to become a B-25 pilot, earning his "wings" in 1944. On August 23, 1944, John flew a B-25 bomber across the Atlantic to Africa to fly missions out of Corsica, off the coast of Italy. That same day, he flew his first bombing mission to the Settimo Road Bridge, Italy. In total, John flew 65 combat missions, earning an Air Medal (the first of 8) for his very first mission. He was also awarded with The Distinguished Flying Cross, earned by those who distinguish themselves in "heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight".

John had an ability of always returning his crews back to base safely, making him a very popular pilot with whom to fly. First Lieutenant Kroening finished his combat tour in March of 1945. He declined the Army's offer to make him Captain.

After retiring to Milford, DE, Mr. Kroening together with his daughter, Leslie, wrote a book; "Flyboy: A Teenager's Fast Track to becoming a WWII Combat Pilot".

Mr. Kroening is survived by his daughter, Leslie Bridgett, of Pasadena, MD and his sister, Laura Ripple of Baltimore, MD.

Interment will be private at Delaware Veterans Cemetery in Millsboro, DE.

Please sign Mr. Kroening's online guestbook located on this site.

Comments



“ Uncle John enjoyed life and he enjoyed being around family and friends. He was adventurous and fearless at wanting more out of life. He enjoyed sailing his own sailboat.

Vince really enjoyed talking to Uncle John about his experiences as a WWII Bomber Pilot.

He was always very kind and loving towards Vince and me and we will miss him a lot.

Love Linda and Vince Courtney

Linda Courtney - December 30, 2016 at 02:11 PM



“ I did not have the good fortune to get to know John, until these last seven months. Volunteering in Delaware Veteran's Home brought me in touch with a beaut man; I wish I had had the good fortune to have met him earlier, in my life. I was in the Army for 35 years; I've met a lot of really interesting people. John fits squarely into that "really interesting" group. He was one hell of a character, and "The Colonel" is sorely missed each and every day by all of us that had the honor to know him. He would joke and jest; then fade away a little. John, mate; you finally found your keys and you've gone Home. God Bless you my friend.

David & Diane Ogden



David Ogden - December 27, 2016 at 07:23 PM



“ I miss seeing John roam the hallway with a soda in one hand and plenty of memories to share with all of us at DVH. I know that he is in a better place, but part of me still hopes to see him returning to the green unit from one of his adventures. I hope his family finds love, peace, and understanding during this difficult time. May Mr. Kroening remain in all our hearts and may his memories bring joy. I hope his stories live on within us know knew him forever. Nancy L. Amaya-Sharp



Nancy L. Amaya-Sharp - December 20, 2016 at 02:34 PM



“ John will always hold a special place in our hearts. We truly enjoyed his friendship, stories, and his love of life. We will treasure the memories... trips to the Post, the beach (Ocean City Air Show), the Dinners at the Veterans Home, celebrating his Birthdays and the buddy poppy drives (he thoroughly enjoyed handing out poppies and chatting with folks).

Leslie we thank you for sharing your Dad and family with us. We are grateful you included us in your functions. Especially your Dad's induction to the Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame. What an honor. We have many memories to cherish.

Please know our thoughts and prayers are with you! We find great comfort knowing, John is shining bright in the light of Jesus resting peacefully. Blessings!



Al & Pat Darlin - December 20, 2016 at 09:09 AM



“ I remember when you first came to DVH, and you would go out to the post and come back, you had a good time talking about it. It was a pleasure and an honor to take care of you before I transferred to Red Unit. My prayers go out to your family.

Dawn Butler
CNA @ DVH

Dawn Butler - December 19, 2016 at 11:53 PM



“ I will miss not seeing John roaming the halls here at the Veterans Home. I loved hearing his stories of adventure while he was in the Military. He had a great sense of humor and wonderful smile. My thoughts and Prayer go out to Leslie and his Family. Renee'

Renee' Smith - December 19, 2016 at 07:28 AM



“ John will always be one of my favorite Vets.--we have had some lively debates, then i'd see that twinkle in his eye & know he was reeling me in--i'm going to miss John-- Prayers & love go out to Bridgett & Family Alice



alice - December 18, 2016 at 01:40 PM