



Obituary for John W. Dyer

7/15/1915 - 2/8/2012

John W. Dyer, 96 of Chicago and long time resident of Petoskey/Bay View and Wequetonsing, passed away on February 8, 2012 at his daughters' home in Petoskey, surrounded by his loving family.

John was born on July 15, 1915 in New York City, the son of Malcolm Peter and Freda Decker. He grew up in Hoopston, IL and attended Northwestern University in Evanston, IL and the University of Arizona before returning to Northwestern University in Evanston and completing his BA, but it was at the University of Arizona that he met the love of his life, Ruth Crist.

John enlisted in the US Army at the rank of Private in 1940 and was shipped to a line company in the 19th Engineers. With the attack on Pearl Harbor, John's single year enlistment was cancelled and he was sent to Engineers School and attached to the 20th Engineers as a 2nd Lt. On June 28, 1942, just days prior to him being shipped overseas to Europe, John married Ruth in Chicago, IL. John was then attached to the 816th Army Engineers Aviation Battalion where he served as the Adjutant of his Battalion. John took part in the Normandy landing and helped build the first operational fighter bomber base on the beach head.

In January of 1945, John returned stateside and transferred to the United States Army Reserve, and began his civilian life with Ruth. John opened an Avion Travel Trailer Dealership, in conjunction with Paradise Park, trailer park in the Chicago area. In 1968, John sold his dealership and retired from the Army Reserves as a Lt. Col and completely changed his path in life. John became a Spanish Teacher and Wrestling Coach at the St. Laurence High School in Burbank, IL, and during his 25 year tenure, became the Head of the Language Department.

John was a member of the Sigma Chi, the Bay View Association. He enjoyed fishing, boating, crossword puzzles, reading and taking long walks. John's greatest love was spending time with his family and he treasured all the time he was able to spend with his grandchildren and great grandchildren.

John is survived by his wife of 69 years, Ruth; 2 children, John Christopher Dyer of Chicago, IL and Jennifer Ruth Drinkall of Petoskey; 5 grandchildren, Elsa (Sekhar) Chandra, Debbie (Gil) Duran, Rev. Mark (Tanya) Drinkall, Scott Drinkall, and Roger Drinkall; 6 great grandchildren, Naathan, Mackenzie, Gavin John, Brielle, Charlotte, and Sophia; and by a cousin, Curtis Campbell of Danville, IL.

A memorial service celebrating John's life will be held on Saturday, February 11th at 1:00pm at the Emmanuel Evangelical Church in Petoskey with Rev. Mark Drinkall and Rev. Robert Elder officiating. The family will receive friends at the church on Saturday from 12:00pm (Noon) until the time of service.

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