



George K. Ritter

April 24, 1924 - March 13, 2018

George K. Ritter, a decorated World War II paratrooper whose love of East Toledo was exceeded only by his love of family, passed away March 15, 2018 at ProMedica Ebeid Hospice. He was 93.

Mr. Ritter served with distinction in the Army during the war as a member of the 11th Airborne Division in the Pacific, enlisting in February 1943. He made 33 jumps as a paratrooper, winning citations that included the Philippine liberation ribbon with two bronze service stars, the American Theater ribbon with bronze arrowhead, and the World War II Victory Medal.

He also was honored for his service when he traveled to Washington D.C. a few years ago on an Honor Flight with other World War II veterans.

Eight months after his discharge in 1946, he married the love of his life, Jane Goebel.

Mr. Ritter went to work as a laborer for Libbey-Owens-Ford, later becoming a sales representative for Maumee Valley Distributing. He eventually took a position with the City of Toledo and became supervisor of ditch maintenance, retiring after 12 years of public employment.

George was born at the old East Toledo Hospital and grew up on the east side of the river. He never lost his love for East Toledo and its heritage. "Once an East Sider, always an East Sider," he liked to say.

Traveling was another passion for George. He and Jane visited all 50 states over the course of their marriage, often traveling with their children and grandchildren. The last state on their quest was Alaska, just five years ago.

They enjoyed including their grandchildren on annual vacations to Florida. They also vacationed for 11 years in a Grand Haven, Mich., cottage appropriately named "Memories."

George's love of young people was also manifested in his involvement with the Boy Scouts for many years. He served for three years as Scoutmaster for Troop 60 at Navarre School.

His enthusiasm for life extended to sports. He loved softball and baseball. He played fast-pitch softball for many years and continued with slow-pitch softball into his early 80s. He also enjoyed watching his son Bill play senior baseball in the Roy Hobbs league at

Skeldon Stadium in Maumee.

Two years ago George was selected as an East Toledo Neighborhood House Distinguished Alumnus. He served on the East Toledo Historical Society and Friends of Navarre Park boards for many years. His love of history included membership in the Toledo Civil War Roundtable for over 15 years.

George had a knack for making friends. The last stranger George met became his newest best friend.

He was a member of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church for over 50 years, serving his faith as a member of the Holy Name Society and working as an usher and Eucharistic Minister. He also offered communion to parish shut-ins.

George is survived by his wife, Jane, his daughter, Susan Fischbach, son Bill (Margi), six grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren, a niece, Judy (Dennis) Hill, and cousin Ruth Long. A sister, Gloria Schwen (Bob), preceded George in death.

Typical of George's generous nature and his service to others, he made a decision many years ago to donate his body to the University of Toledo Medical Center upon his passing. A celebration of George's life will be held at The Most Blessed Sacrament Church Saturday, March 17. The gathering will begin at 11:30 a.m. followed by a Celebration of Mass at noon. The family suggests that any memorials be to the East Toledo Family Center or Ebeid Hospice.

Events

MAR **Service** 12:00PM

17

Most Blessed Sacrament Church
2240 Castlewood Dr, Toledo, OH, US, 43613

Comments



“ Hi Bill,

I am very sorry for the loss of your dad. I remember George from his days as Scout Leader of Troop 60, Navarre School. He is a person my brothers and I reminiscence about, from our days of scouting. I recall numerous camping, hiking and canoeing trips during that time. His time and sacrifice is to be commended. He was full of life, and energy that was infectious. He was always happy and cheerful. He never allowed a problem or situation to interfere with us, enjoying the outdoors. I was proud to read about his service during WWII. That was an aspect I wasn't aware of. Although it has been 50 years since I have seen your Dad, I still can see him in my minds eye. We can never thank him enough for his service to WWII, and his days as a volunteer Scout Leader. I am honored that he was a mentor during that time of my life.

God Bless you and your family,

Phil Wolfe

Phil Wolfe - March 16, 2018 at 03:42 PM



“ Phil - Thank you so much for the kind words and sharing the memories of Dad. He remained a very positive and cheerful man his entire life. He will be missed by all who had the pleasure to know him. Thanks again Phil for sharing.

Bill - March 16, 2018 at 04:23 PM



“ 6 files added to the album New Album Name



Craig Schneider - March 16, 2018 at 10:03 AM



“ Bill,

Also sorry for your loss. Let me know if I can help.

Lanny

Lanny Burman - March 16, 2018 at 09:26 AM



“ Matt and I extend our deepest sympathies on the loss of your father. We were so honored to have met him. Please know that we are praying for all of you during this time of his celebration of life. God bless you all.



Marcy Smith - March 16, 2018 at 09:24 AM



“ Thank you very much Marcy. He was the best father ever. He will be missed. Hugs to Matt and you.

Bill - March 16, 2018 at 04:37 PM



“ Hi Bill,

Have just heard of the recent passing of your dad. Just wanted to say on behalf of Jo, Helen, William and myself, how much our thoughts are with you and the family at this sad time.

Your father had a long and fulfilling life, something from which you must draw comfort, from one veteran to another from a land far away...I salute him.

Best Wishes

Derek

Derek Gent - March 16, 2018 at 05:13 AM



“ Bill and Marge,

I am so sorry for your loss. Wish I was there to help, please ask Lanny if you need anything.

My thoughts and prayers are with you

Debbie Burman

Debbie burman - March 16, 2018 at 04:13 AM



“ Bill. Not knowing your father personally I believe I do now. His time here distinguished what most of us should do..... serve! Hoping you find peace Bill but your father was amazing.

Donald Duckworth - March 16, 2018 at 01:27 AM



“ He sure was and set an example for so many to follow. He was the most generous, sincere man imaginable and always loved having a good time. He will miss seeing all of you on the ball field. All of you were ALWAYS so good to him and treated him like one of the guys. Words could never express the appreciation he had for the attention he received. From the bottom of my heart I thank you and all of the players in Roy Hobbs for being so good to him.

Bill - March 16, 2018 at 04:42 PM



“ Dear Bill and Sue, from one East Sider to another I'm so sorry for your loss. Bill, now I know where you get your good looks from. I'm sorry I won't be able to attend the service, due to work, but my thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. Most sincerely, Kathy Hooker

Kathy Hooker - March 15, 2018 at 09:37 PM



“ Bill. Not knowing your father personally I believe I do now. His time here distinguished what most of us should do..... serve! Hoping you find peace Bill but your father was amazing.

Donald Duckworth - March 16, 2018 at 01:24 AM



“ Bill, Margi, and Family,

We are so sorry for your loss. George was a great person and always fun to be around. Many fond memories.

Bill & Irene Hendricks

Bill - March 17, 2018 at 06:46 PM