



David Franklin Thwaites

SEP 8, 1921 - DEC 15, 2015



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David Franklin Thwaites

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David F. Thwaites, LTC, US Air Force (Ret), passed away on 15 December 2015. A WWII P-47 Fighter Pilot, he was 94 years old.

Born in Conshohocken, PA in 1921, he was an Eagle Scout in the Boy Scouts of America. David joined the US Army Air Corps in 1939 and initially trained as a radio operator in the B-17 Flying Fortress Bomber.

He attended flight school in 1942, receiving his Aviator Wings in July 1943. While in flight school, he married the former Pauline (Polly) Watkins of Bellingham, WA in June 1942 and together they moved to numerous flight training centers in the western US and Florida.

In the fall of 1943, he trained in the Republic Aviation P-47 Thunderbolt and from there he deployed to the European Theater of Operations. He flew missions in support of Allied operations during the D-Day Invasion on 6 June 1944 and was overall credited with destroying seven German aircraft while damaging 3 others during nine months of aerial combat operations.

For his actions he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross w/2OLC's along with 4 Air Medals. In addition, he was recognized as an air combat "Fighter Ace" in the P-47 aircraft. He returned to the US in September 1944 and served a total of 26 years in the US Air Force.

Following Military Service, he worked for NSA enjoying many years working on radio antenna projects. His wife Polly died in 1971 and in 1983, he married the former Sarah Herman and they have resided in the Annapolis area since that time.

Dave and Sarah were avid sailors spending many summers sailing the Chesapeake Bay while spending 20 plus winter seasons cruising the ICW to Florida and beyond. Between them, they had 8 children, 14 grandchildren, and 4 great grandchildren.




Events

David Franklin Thwaites

SEP 8, 1921 - DEC 15, 2015

Memorial Gathering

 **Friday**, January 8, 2016


 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET


 **Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**
814 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis MD 21401



Memorial Service

 **Friday**, January 8, 2016

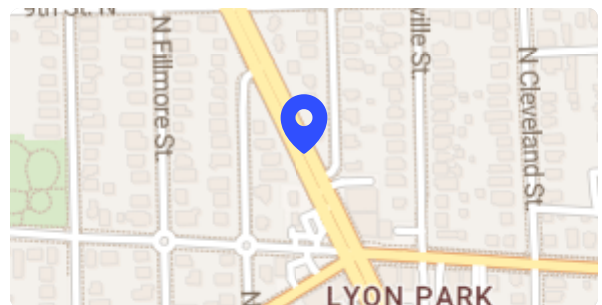
 3:00 PM ET

 **Lasting Tributes Cremation & Funeral Care**
814 Bestgate Rd, Annapolis MD 21401



Cemetery Details

 **Arlington National Cemetery**
Arlington VA





Tribute Wall

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Anonymous sent a Strength & Solace Spray to the Thwaites family.

January 5 at 10:48 AM



Anonymous sent a Be My Love Bouquet with Red Roses to the Thwaites family.

January 4 at 7:23 AM



Jerry Moskowitz posted:

Dear Sarah and Family, We are very sorry to hear about David and offer our most heartfelt condolences. I had the privilege of working with David for many years at NSA and then occasionally meeting with him at reunions during the time that Martha and I lived in Annapolis. We shared our sailing experiences and our work background over the years. It was always a joy to be with him, he bubbled over with enthusiasm. We will miss him. Jerry and Martha Moskowitz

December 28 at 9:38 AM



Steve And Marilyn Bandy posted:

Dear Sarah and family, As Dave's neighbor, we came to so enjoy just being around him - his persistent smile, can-do demeanor, willing spirit and happy heart. While we will miss him dearly, we feel blessed just to have been around him. His verve for life was infectious. As his family, we will keep you in our prayers for your healing and hope. We know you will be with him eternally. While you await that day, may your heart be lightened as you remember the special gift of the life you shared with him. What a beautiful man...we will not forget him. Love, Marilyn and Steve Bandy

December 18 at 9:08 PM



Memories only last if you share them

Join us in honoring David by contributing to a collection of shared memories.



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