



# Bruce Merrill Davidson

MAR 16, 1924 - AUG 13, 2024



Scan to Visit

# Table of Contents

<b>Obituary</b> .....	Page 3
<b>Events</b> .....	Page 5
<b>Tribute Wall</b> .....	Page 6



# **Bruce Merrill Davidson**

MAR 16, 1924 - AUG 13, 2024

**D**r. Bruce Merrill Davidson, Major General, United States Air Force Reserve, passed away on August 13, 2024. He was 100 years old.

Bruce was born in Ironwood, Michigan on March 16, 1924, to Harold Osborne Davidson and Alma Marie Knoepp Davidson. He received his Bachelor of Science in civil engineering at the University of Michigan in 1949 with minors in law and business administration. He attended the University of Wisconsin, where he received his master's degree in civil engineering in 1951 and his Ph.D. in 1956.

Bruce was a Professor of Civil Engineering and Associate Dean of Engineering at the University of Wisconsin and later Chairman of the Civil Engineering Department at Washington State University. In 1971, he was appointed Academic Dean of the U.S. Naval Academy, from which he retired in 1984.

Bruce entered the military in February 1943 in enlisted status and later transferred to the Communications Cadet Program at Yale University, from which he was commissioned in December 1943. He was assigned as squadron communications officer of the 28th Bombardment Squadron and deployed to Guam in 1945, where he served as the squadron adjutant and communications officer. Later, he was assigned to Headquarters, Far Eastern Air Forces in Manila, Philippines, followed by a position as administrative assistant, General Headquarters, in Tokyo. Recalled to active duty in 1951 during the Korean War, Bruce was assigned to the Pacific Division, Military Air Transport Services at Hickam Air Force Base, Hawai'i.

Bruce served in multiple reserve assignments involving procurement and logistics. He was also selected to represent the Air Force on the Secretary of Defense's Reserve Forces Policy Board in 1980, the Senior Reserve Policy Board in the Department of Defense.

His military decorations and awards include the Presidential Unit Citation, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Army of Occupation Medal,



## Obituary

**Bruce Merrill Davidson**

MAR 16, 1924 - AUG 13, 2024

---

Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Legion of Merit, Korean Service Medal, and Distinguished Service Medal.

Bruce's civic associations include membership in the American Society of Civil Engineers, the American Society of Railway Engineers, the American Society for Engineering Education, the Reserve Officers Association and the Air Force Association. He served as an alderman for the City of Madison for eight years and was active in Wisconsin politics.

Said Bruce of his experiences, "People sometimes ask me what they should call me, 'doctor,' 'general,' or something else. I say just call me 'lucky,' because that's what I have been."

Dr. Davidson is survived by his wife of 75 years, the former Mary Catherine Wank of Bellefontaine, Ohio, their three children (Mark Davidson (Dawn), Diane Davidson (Peter) and Mary Ann Davidson) and two grandchildren (Piers Horvath and Sabrina Horvath).

A funeral service will be held at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date. A celebration of life will be held on Wednesday September 4, 2024 at 4 P.M. at Lasting Tributes Funeral Home, 814 Bestgate Road, Annapolis, MD 21401.



# Events


**Bruce Merrill Davidson**

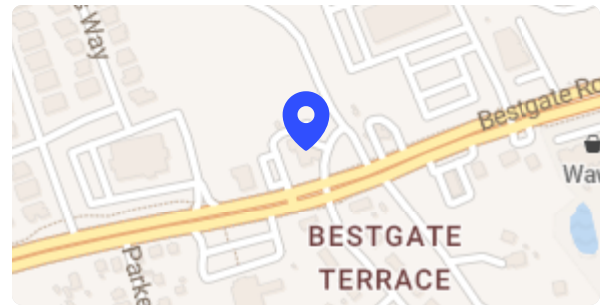
MAR 16, 1924 - AUG 13, 2024

## Celebration of Life

 **Wednesday**, September 4, 2024

 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM ET

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





## Tribute Wall

**Bruce Merrill Davidson**

MAR 16, 1924 - AUG 13, 2024

RR

**Robert David Corley, Capt, Usnr (Ret)** posted:

During my first class year at Annapolis (1974-75) I was privileged to know and work with Dr. Davidson. He took me under his wing as Brigade Academic Liaison Officer for those two semesters. He was a strong leader and proponent of a classical, well-rounded liberal education for every Midshipman. He had a brilliant engineering mind and could discourse on Plutarch and Livy. My memory of him is as a man of great principle who understood his purpose in life and demonstrated that purpose daily. A life well-lived, a race well-run. Requiescat In Pace, Dr. Davidson.

December 4 at 11:25 AM

JB

**Jane K. Bell** posted:

I visited Bruce and Mary Davidson in their home with my older brother, Louis Knoepp, and his wife Lynn a few years ago. Bruce was our last surviving first cousin. We stayed over night and enjoyed wonderful meals and conversation with them. They shared stories about the family. I admired his beautiful cherry wood furniture and the many family pictures in his home. I knew he had great success in his engineering, military, and academic career paths over a long life and had met his wife Mary at University of Michigan where she studied nursing. Their children and grandchildren continue their wonderful history. I will always value these memories. Thoughts and prayers to the family, especially at this time. Jane Knoepp Bell

September 10 at 2:20 PM

DD

**Diane Davidson** September 11 at 9:21 AM

Thank you for sharing. Diane Davidson

LK

**Lynn Knoepp** posted:

Bruce was one of the most accomplished men I have ever met, yet he was such a gracious, generous, humble man. He and Mary opened their home to us, insisting that we spend the night, and served us delicious food. I have Mary's hand written recipes which I treasure. We also were overwhelmed seeing Bruce's hand-made furniture especially the three pedestal dining table. Wonderful memories of a remarkable couple. Lynn Knoepp

September 10 at 10:14 AM

DD

**Diane Davidson** September 11 at 9:22 AM

Thank you for your kind comments



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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



Scan to Visit