



Jay D. Wingate

JUL 4, 1921 - OCT 12, 2017



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Jay D. Wingate

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Jay D. Wingate, native of Rehoboth Beach, died October 12, 2017 at his home. He was born on July 4, 1921, son of the late Rehoboth Beach Mayor, Ralph M. Wingate and his wife Myrtle (Joseph) Wingate.

Jay graduated from Rehoboth High School in 1938 where he played baseball, soccer and basketball being an All-State player in basketball in his senior year. He graduated from the University of Delaware in 1943 with a degree in Civil engineering. While there he played Varsity Soccer. During his four years at the University he was in the R.O.T.C. program. World War II had begun and immediately after graduation he was sent to Officer's Candidate School at Camp Davis, North Carolina where he received his commission as Second Lieutenant in the Anti-Aircraft Artillery. Shortly thereafter he transferred to the 294th Engineer Combat Battalion located at Camp Pilot Knob, Yuma Arizona which had just finished training and was preparing for over-seas shipment to the European Theater. The 294th was sent to Camp Miles Standish in Taunton, Massachusetts where he shipped out of Boston for further training in England.

During a pre-invasion training exercise in Sherburne, England, Jay's platoon was involved in the explosion of many anti-tank mines caused by a faulty fuse resulting in the death of 29 of his men and injury to others. Jay was the only man unhurt. During the invasion of France on D-Day, the ship Susan B. Anthony, which carried the troops of the 294th, was sunk by a floating mine as it crossed the English Channel. Jay witnessed the sinking from another ship which was carrying the unit's heavy equipment. All men of the 294th survived the sinking by transferring to a British Destroyer but they landed on Utah Beach without personal equipment including helmets and rifles. The Susan B. Anthony was the only troop ship to be sunk during the Invasion on D-Day. The 294th which was attached to the First Army, crossed France, Holland, Belgium and Germany clearing mine-fields and building bridges that spanned the Meuse, Seine, Roer, Rhine, Weser, Salle Rivers and many other smaller rivers.

At the end of the war in Europe, Jay, still with the 294th, was stationed in Berlin, Germany. He returned home a few months later with the rank of First Lieutenant having received the ETO



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Ribbon with five battle stars and two Purple Hearts. Shortly after returning home to Rehoboth Beach he married his fiancé, Frances (Punx) Norris from Pembroke, Massachusetts and Seaford, Delaware. He spent six months working in the Engineering Dept. of the duPont Company in Seaford but foreseeing the likelihood of transferring to other locations his love for Rehoboth Beach caused him to resign. He subsequently opened and operated Wingate's Sporting Goods and Hardware Store on 1st Street in Rehoboth for about 10 years. During this time, he and his wife raised their five children. In the early 50's Jay and another veteran, also an engineer, Sam P. Eschenbach of Lewes, began a successful Surveying and Engineering business, Wingate & Eschenbach, which still exists with two of his sons, Doug and Brad as owners. Jay was appointed to the State Board of Professional Engineers and Land Surveyors in 1960, serving for three years.

Jay remained an active member of the U. S. Army Reserves until his retirement in-1981 during which time he attended schools at Ft. Belvoir, VA and graduated from The Command and General Staff College in Ft. Leavenworth, Kansas. By then he had attained the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. During this time, Jay spent 12 years on the Rehoboth School Board. He was also elected twice as Commissioner and as vice-Mayor of the city of Rehoboth Beach. Jay served three terms in the State of Delaware's House of Representatives during which time he was on the Joint Finance Committee.

He was a member of All Saints' Episcopal Church in Rehoboth Beach, serving as usher for many years and as a member of the Vestry. He was a member of the Rehoboth Beach Historical Society, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the American Legion, the Rehoboth Kiwanis Club, the Sussex Stamp Club and the Rehoboth Art League.

Jay's main interests were his family, sports, and stamp collecting. He rarely missed a University of Delaware football game either home or away and remained a supporter of the University of Delaware both in the School of Engineering and the Dept. of Athletics.

In addition to his parents, Jay was preceded in death by his beloved wife, Punx in 2016; his daughter, Janine "Jan" in 1999; and his sisters: Hazel Wingate Bowman, Sara Wingate Melvin and Joyce Wingate Moore. He is survived by his four children: Douglas Norris Wingate, Brad Manning Wingate and his wife Karen, Richard "Dick" Martin Wingate and Cynthia Wingate, all of Rehoboth Beach, DE; six grandchildren: Emily Wingate, Jay C. Wingate, Kate Wingate-Bernstein and her husband Brian, Ben Wingate and his wife Krissy, Nevin Miller and his wife Hallie, and Jay Wingate Friedl; six great grandchildren; and his sister, Shirley Wingate Lipp of Gaithersburg, MD.



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A Graveside Service with Military Honors will be held on Saturday, October 21, 2017 at 11:00 AM at All Saints Cemetery, 20274 Beaver Dam Road, Harbeson, DE.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests contributions in Jay's memory to All Saints Episcopal Church, 18 Olive Ave, Rehoboth Beach, DE 19971.

Please sign the online guestbook located on this site.

FLORIST NOTE: PLEASE DELIVER ALL FLORAL ARRANGEMENTS BY 3PM FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2017 TO OUR LEWES LOCATION.




Events


Jay D. Wingate

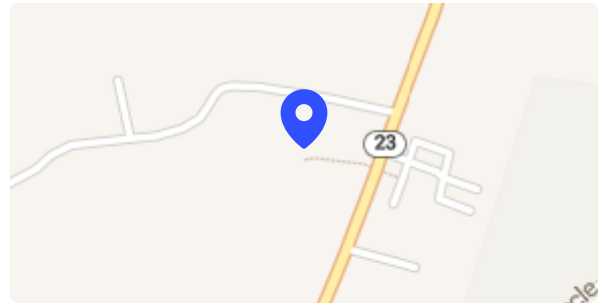
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Graveside Service

 **Saturday**, October 21, 2017

 11:00 AM ET

 **All Saints Cemetery**
20274 Beaver Dam Road (Rt. 23), Harbeson DE





Tribute Wall

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Chris Lipp shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

I just became aware of this web page and want to send our condolences to Jay's family. My Uncle Jay was a wonderful person who experienced an amazing life. I didn't fully know how amazing his life was until I interviewed him at his home in July, 2010. During the interview I learned about his WWII experiences, his political adventures and other things that he did during his long journey through life. I will always have very fond memories of Jay and his wife, Punx. They were wonderful people and I am so thankful that I got to spend some time with them. I have attached two photos that my wife, Vicki, took of Jay and Punx in July, 2010. Love to all of the family, Chris and Vicki Lipp



November 9 at 1:30 PM



Your Loving Daughter - Cyndi sent a Sweetest Sunrise Bouquet to the Wingate family.



October 19 at 2:43 PM



Carol Lingo posted:

Our thoughts and prayers are with the family at this time. Jay was truly a great man. Ken & Carol Lingo

October 14 at 5:07 AM



Terry Warrington lit a candle in honor of Jay.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Wingate family and friends. I am saddened for your loss. Mr. & Mrs. Wingate welcomed me into their home many times to babysit with Jay and Emily when they were little, they were both so kind and generous to me. I haven't been in touch for some time, but I always will remember. I'm thinking of all of you and hoping that the memories shared and the support of family and friends will help you through during this difficult time. Terry (Brandner) Warrington



October 13 at 12:09 PM

KM Karen J. Miller October 16 at 7:49 AM

So sorry for your loss. Jay was a truly wonderful and respected man. It was pleasure working with him and knew that the survey we received was always correct. Karen J. Miller, Tunnell & Raysor, P.A.



Media

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Chris Lipp shared 2 photos to the **Tribute Wall** album.

November 9 at 1:30 PM



Jay & Punx Wingate July 21, 2010



Jay Wingate July 19, 2010



Memories only last if you share them

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



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