



## Donald Robert Duchene

February 10, 1924 - August 1, 1943

Duchene, Donald Robert

Staff Sergeant Donald Robert Duchene was killed in Action on August 1, 1943 while participating in Operation Tidal Wave, a bombing raid against the oil refineries around Ploiesti, Romania during WWII.

Prior to joining the military, he was a member of the Civilian Conservation Corp, Two Harbors, MN.

He predeceased his brother Arthur T. (Dorothy) Duchene, sister Dorothy (Donald) Neidermeier, and brother-in-law Lester L. Nordin. He is survived by his sister Marion L. Nordin and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and a grateful nation.

Memorial service 11:00 AM Wednesday, October 5, 2022 at Holcomb-Henry-Boom-Purcell Funeral Home (515 Hwy 96 W., Shoreview, MN). Visitation one hour prior to service at the Funeral Home.

Interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, memorial preferred to the Wounded Warriors Project.

# Tribute Wall

SW

“ *God bless*



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**Sharon wright** - October 10, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SL

“ *My God bless you , my God keep you, my God bless your family and friends in there time of sorrow. And I would personally like to thank you for your service to our great country. This is the prayer that I say to all our Nations Heroes,I help bury at fort Snelling national cemetery on the Friday squad.*



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**Steve Landgraf** - October 05, 2022 at 12:00 AM

SR

“ *Rest in Peace. My Uncle, James Rocheford, flew with you on that mission as a side gunner on a B-24. You two have finally been reunited at home.*

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**Stephen Rocheford** - October 02, 2022 at 12:00 AM

DB

“ I read about the return of Don in the Star Tribune this morning and wanted to share the Politte family story with you. My uncle Vince Politte was also shot down in the same air battle and was returned to his family 5 years ago.

Although my Stepdad, Phil, was only 6 yrs old when his brother enlisted in the Army Air Corp, Vince's MIA story has always been a part of the family lore. Vince had 3 living relatives remaining, an older sister, Dorothy, who passed at the age of 96 last year; and 2 living younger brothers, Phil and Leo. The experience of bringing Vince home has been one of the highlights of my life. I finally was able to give him a complete story and a sense that I know the kind of person that he was. I hope that this process will also bring your family this sense of full circle for the mystery that has haunted it for 80 years.

The military sense of caring and honor was comforting and beyond reproach. Our ceremony was at Ft. Leavenworth, and Vince was buried near his parents in the military cemetery. The best feeling for each of us is that he finally came home.

I have added below the story that my Cousin Vince (there are 5 different Vinces in the family, and I suspect many Donalds in yours), put together on the air attack on the Ploesti, Romania oil refinery. Incredible bravery was demonstrated that day. Know that Donald was one of them. And the caring of the Romanian people for the soldiers protecting them is incredibly comforting.

If for some reason, the document did not attach, please feel free to reach out to me, and I will make sure that you receive a copy if you would like it.

May your family find healing and comfort in the events of the next few days.

Diane Bates, niece of Vincent Politte

*PS: I have been unable to add the history of Operation Tidal Wave, as the file will not attach and there is too much text to put in this format. I will try emailing it the the funeral home and ask them to get it to you.*

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**Diane Bates** - October 01, 2022 at 12:00 AM

LN

“ *RIP Uncle Donald glad you were found and finally laid to rest where you belong*

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**Lori Nordin** - August 30, 2022 at 12:00 AM