



Joseph George Drake

October 2, 1921 - March 27, 2021

Drake, Joseph George

Born in Annville, PA, Joe, age 99, passed away from natural causes after a fabulous long life with lots of adventures.

Joe was preceded in death by his wife of 75 years, Doris (Lee); parents Anna and Paul Domovich; sisters Mary Andrus and Catherine Puchon, and brother Stanley Drake.

Survived by sister Dorothy Maminski; son Bruce Drake and wife Elizabeth Garren; daughter Lynn Drake and husband William Ascani; daughter Laura Drake; daughter Diana Drake; grandchildren Sara Drake, Genevieve Gorder, Lewis Gorder, Adrian Gorder, Gemma Clarke. Great-grandchildren Calvin and Charlotte Green, Zachary Simonson, Bebelles Harcott. And many nieces and nephews.

Joe's family moved frequently in Pennsylvania and New York before settling in Philadelphia, PA. He graduated from Central High School in Philly. Shortly after high school, Joe studied music and joined a jazz band playing stand-up bass and arranging music. He performed at various clubs in the Philadelphia area and along the East coast until the start of World War II.

Entering the service in August, 1942, he was assigned to the US Army Air Corp. While in officer's training at Macalester College in St. Paul, he met his future wife-to-be, Doris Lee. Joe completed 30 missions over Europe as part of the 8th Air Force, 446th BG as a B-24 navigator. Joe received the Distinguished Flying Cross as lead navigator for the 8th Air Force on their twenty-ninth mission. In addition, Joseph received the Air Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

After the war, Joe entered the University of Minnesota, where he graduated with a Degree in Electrical Engineering. After graduation, he spent 36 years with the Westinghouse Electric Supply Corporation (WESCO) in various jobs in sales, marketing, and management within the company. He retired in 1984 as District Manager of the Northern District of WESCO based in St Paul.

Joe had a great interest in canoeing, camping and fishing in the Boundary Waters Canoe Area and Quetico Provincial Park. He took 42 canoe trips over 60+ years with family and friends. His first trip was in 1947. His last trip was 2014. During the late 1970's, he was active with the Friends of the Boundary Waters in the battle to secure wilderness designation.

He was an active member of the Lake of the Isles Lutheran Church and served two terms as council president.

Joe's hobbies included canoe trips, a passion for jazz music, cross-country skiing, fishing (everywhere he could), hunting (the 4-J camp), bicycling, physical fitness (the Y), piloting a private plane, walking in the woods, solving crosswords, learning new vocabulary words, enjoying the challenge of golf, improving every home he lived in, and engaging in active discussions on topics of interest. If you were doing a car trip with Joe - you were talking. Joe loved nature, had unbounded energy, loved his family, and was a smooth dancer. He lived his dream!! Joe spent many years at the family cabin in

Itasca County chasing those walleyes. He will always be remembered for his favorite saying - A positive attitude will help solve problems!

Because of the pandemic, there will be a private burial at Lakewood Cemetery, Minneapolis. A celebration of life will be scheduled at a later date.

In lieu of flowers please send donations to Friends of the BWCA (www.friends-bwca.org).