



Joseph Chester Mattuski, Lt Col, USAF Retired

February 20, 1925 - January 5, 2018

The Mighty 8th Air Force lost another courageous aviator on the morning of 5 January 2018, when Joseph C Mattuski, Lt Col, USAF Retired, passed away in Tallahassee Florida. Born in Northampton, Massachusetts, 20 February 1925, Joe was a child of the Depression and a member of our Greatest Generation. In 1951 Joe married the love of his life, Helen, who survives him and they spent 66 beautiful years together raising a family of 5 children, Pat, Joe (Alysa), Charlie (Lia), Tom and Jimmy. Joe was preceded in death by his son Jimmy and grandson Ryan Joseph. Joe's extended family includes grandchildren (Kristina, Nicole, Bryan, Mary) and great-grandchildren (Brooke, Callie, Anthony, Peyton, Ryan).

At 18 Joe enlisted in the Army Air Corp and proudly served as a tail gunner on the B-17G. Stationed in Horham, England he flew 30 combat missions and 3 supply drops over Europe, including Berlin in 1944; and was credited with 1 and 1/2 aerial victories. After the war Joe graduated from the University of Massachusetts with a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration. Joe served in the United States Air Force for 27 years, retiring as a Lt. Colonel. Joe then went to work in Tallahassee Florida with the Office of the Governor in the area of Budget Planning and Administration working for another 17 years before retiring for good.

Joe's favorite pastimes were spending time with family, being outside, traveling to Alaska, Montana and all places in between. Fishing and hunting,

camping and sight-seeing with an emphasis on fly fishing were his favorite outdoor pursuits.

Private services were held this week in Tallahassee, FL. Joe's ashes will be interred at the family plot in Hatfield, MA. A memorial service will be held at the headwaters of the Wise River in Montana later this year. (It flows into the Big Hole River, as any avid fly fisherman would want!)

Susie Mozolic of Bevis Funeral Home is assisting the family with their arrangements. (www.bevisfh.com 850-385-2193)