



CMDR. Curtis D. McGaha

December 4, 2019

Retired Navy Commander and WWII veteran Curtis McGaha, 100
Curtis D. McGaha was born in Roosevelt County, New Mexico on August 3, 1919. He graduated from Portales High School in 1938, then attended Eastern New Mexico University and New Mexico State University before entering the Navy in 1941.

Curtis was a flight instructor until 1943 when he joined a Pacific Fleet Fighter Squadron, flying F4F Wildcats from the Escort Carrier USS White Plains. He flew over 50 combat missions in the battles of Saipan, Tinian, Palau, Leyte, and the Second Battle of the Philippine Sea. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross, three Air Medals, two Presidential Unit Citations and numerous campaign and service medals.

Curtis served in the Navy for 28 years, retiring as a Commander. He then worked as an Employment Officer with the Colorado Division of Employment and retired from there after ten years.

Curtis lived in Colorado Spring from 1963 to 2012, where he was a life member of Centennial Sertoma Club and was recognized as Sertoman of the Year in 1982, 84, 90, and 92. As a Sertoma volunteer, he constructed over 300 wheelchair ramps and over 100 other handy man projects for the disabled.

In 2012 he moved to Fort Collins, Colorado, to be near his daughter. Preceding him in death were his wife of 61 years, Edith Janet McGaha, son Steve, and siblings Olive, Opal, Mertis, and Mary. He is survived by his sister Maidalyn, daughters Kathy and Gale, and grandchildren Monika, Jeremy, Nate, Rachael, Isaac, Abi, and Ben.

No service is planned, per his request.

Tribute Wall



“ *CMDR. Curtis D. McGaha*

October 25, 2022 at 06:14 PM



“ *1 file added to the album Memories Album*



Dennis Palsgrove - December 08, 2019 at 04:04 PM



Thank you for sharing this! Curtis truly enjoyed his time with the Sertomans, and he was proud of his work on wheelchair ramps.

Gale Miller - December 10, 2019 at 09:10 AM



“ *Heartfelt condolences and sympathy on your loss. I had the pleasure of working with Curtis McGaha while also employed by the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment. He was a valuable employee complete and thorough in all his work and an asset to the organization. I did not realize it but as I read his obit I now realize he was another WWII humble hero. May he rest in peace. As a fellow Veteran he will not be forgotten.*

Al Cordova - December 08, 2019 at 10:23 AM



Thank you for sharing your memories.

Gale Miller - December 10, 2019 at 09:10 AM

JM

As an uncle, Curtis was an easy one to be around...& I had plenty since my mother had fourteen siblings & my father...five. Uncle Curtis was always witty, engaging, & never harshly critical. He was the only one of my many uncles who initiated a visit to my home, rather than expecting me to come to his.

Jer McGaha - December 10, 2019 at 07:21 PM

SH

I wish I had known he lived so close to me. I am the granddaughter of LaVonne Mock. She often spoke lovingly of her brother Curtis. I would have loved to know more of my family. He sounds like was an amazing person! Maybe someday I can get to know the rest of you all!

Shawna - October 31, 2022 at 04:15 PM