

Missouri State Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Proudly Honors

Patriot of the Month

July 2024



Eugene Robert James, Jr.

United States Air Force

Sponsored by:
Cornelia Greene Chapter, NSDAR

Eugene Robert James, Jr. (Bob) served in World War II and the Korean War. Bob was a freshman at Georgia Tech when Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941. Bob immediately went to the recruiting office in the Baltimore hotel in Atlanta and passed all the tests except his weight. You had to weigh 119 pounds and he only weighed 114 pounds. Needless to say, Bob spent a lot of time eating and trying to join the military to serve his country. In December 1942 Bob was accepted by the United States Air Force and was inducted July 17, 1943. Bob was trained and served as a bombardier and a bombardier instructor in Carlsbad, New Mexico.



After Bob's WWII active duty, using the GJ Bill, he was able to go back to Georgia Tech and graduated in 1949. He also joined the Reserves at Dobbins Air Force Base.

The Korean War started in July 1950. Bob was called up and applied for pilot training. He was sent to Connally Field in Waco, Texas for pilot training, Glendale, Arizona for fighter school and then to Las Vegas for Fighter/Gunnery School.

Bob shared many of his memories from his Korean War service including: a mid-air collision during pilot training, both pilots were back in the air within minutes, an engine vibration resulting in his forced landing from 23,000 feet, flying F84 planes from Tagu, Korea where two pilots were killed, Bombing a strip of railroad track and the enemy repaired it overnight and many bombing missions destroying artillery positions and supply buildings.

First Lieutenant James was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and well as the Third Oak Leaf Cluster to the Air Medal by the U.S. Air Force.

Lieutenant James ended his civilian profession as the Plant Manager of a plastics company in Taiwan. He married a Navy Wave, Anne Crawford, during WWII. They had 43 happy years before she passed. Florence Richardson, a college friend, saw Anne's obituary and sent Bob a note.

He called Florence the day he received her note. They were happily married for 17 years before Florence passed away.

Eugene Robert James, Jr celebrated his 99th birthday on December 6th, 2023, at The Varsity drive in across the highway form his beloved Georgia Tech!