

Final Flights



Long time Alumni Association member, Colonel John Misterly, *Flew West* on the 18th of August, 2016. This decorated warrior,

commander, author and father leaves behind a great legacy of service to his country.



Services were held on Wednesday, August 24, 2016 at Redmond Memorial Chapel, Redmond, Oregon. Final Resting is at Hillcrest Cemetery in Grants Pass, Oregon

Below is a portion of the biography from the October 2014 reunion where we celebrated the veterans of WWII. John Misterly junior will be providing an updated obituary/biography that will be placed on the website.

I started my military career at the ripe old age of 17 when I answered the call and enlisted in the Army. Initially assigned to the Infantry, I rose to the rank of Staff Sergeant before applying for the Aviation Cadet program. After earning my Navigator wings in



B-29 Superfortress

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMaHH57I9oQ>

December 1943, I went through aerial gunnery and advanced navigation training before being assigned to the brand new B-29. After qualification training at Great Bend, Kansas, the 58th Bombardment Wing [Very Heavy] was deployed to India in April 1944. For the next year we flew combat and resupply

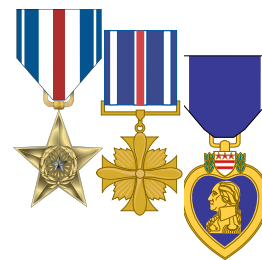
missions over the Hump in a new and untested airplane in some of the worst flying conditions in the world. Unfortunately our unit lost eighty two B-29's during this period. In April 1945 the 58th was relocated to Tinian Island in the Pacific to bomb Japan. My 34th mission [and next to last] was scheduled for the night of May 25, 1945. Immediately after releasing our bombs over Tokyo our aircraft encountered intense flak and we lost number one engine. Number two was affected also and we knew we would soon have to ditch. We successfully ditched 100 miles off the coast of Japan and radioed for help. I returned to the floating aircraft to look for supplies



and survivors and became separated from the rest of the crew. They were rescued the next day by a PBY but I was left adrift on a one-man dinghy. After 8 days drifting alone I

was miraculously rescued by an American submarine which had been sent from Guam to try and locate me.

After the war was over I left the Army Air Corps and entered USC to earn a college degree. In the early 1950's I was recalled to active duty and flew 100 combat missions in the B-26 over Korea.



I joined the 195th Military Airlift Squadron at Van Nuys in 1963 and became an Instructor Navigator as an Air Technician in the C-97. I was later assigned as Assistant Group Operations Officer then as Wing Director of Training. After promotion to Colonel I became the Deputy Commander for Operations. My last assignment prior to retirement in 1978 was Deputy Commander for Logistics.

