



## ***John William Martin (1922-2005)***

*A member of the elite paratroopers group, Company E of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. His life story was re-told in the HBO mini-series "Bank of Brothers." Easy Company played a pivotal role in the outcome of WWII. After the war, he formed his own construction company and became a prominent builder throughout Arizona and Missoula.*

- **1922-Birth.** May 12, 1922 in Columbus, Ohio. The eldest son of William McCarthy and Ester McCombs Martin.
- **Marriage.** Patricia Mary Mantell during training for Easy Company. Two children: Sharon Snavelly in Missoula, Montana and Bill Martin in Phoenix, Arizona.
- In his early years in Ohio, John was always very industrious, working several jobs while attending high school. Upon graduation from North High in Columbus, he immediately enlisted in the Army.
- He was selected to be an original member of the elite paratroopers group, Company E of the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne. This group of military specialists was honored in the HBO mini-series 'Band of Brothers.'

He was trained at Camp Toccoa, Georgia.

- **1944.** As a member of the Band of Brothers, he parachuted into Normandy in advance of the allied "D Day" invasion force on June 6, 1944. During his World War II service, John also served with distinction in repelling the German tank forces at Bastogne, Belgium, which was an instrumental battle in turning the war in favor of the allies and lead to the eventual defeat of Germany.
- **After the war.** John returned to Columbus, Ohio with his family. Always a 'go getter,' he worked for the C&O Railroad and built homes on the side.
- **1960.** With \$10,000 in his pocket, he moved his family to Phoenix, Arizona. He formed his own construction company and built numerous custom homes in the upscale Paradise Valley area of the Valley of the Sun. He later built commercial projects in Arizona and Montana which included nursing care facilities, shopping centers, and office buildings.
- **1970s.** John visited and fell in love with western Montana. He eventually purchased a residence in Missoula, the Elk Horn ranch, and two ranches in Ovando, Montana.
- Over the next 30 years, John and his wife, Pat, shared their lives between Phoenix and Missoula.
- John lived a very full life and accomplished everything he wanted. He had a saying that he told his daughter, Sharon, many times – 'You get out of life what you put into life.'
- John and Pat died very close together and are buried together in Missoula Cemetery.
- Throughout his life, John remained very close with the members of Easy Company, annually attending their conventions for 58 years.
- **2005-Death.** January 25, 2005 in Phoenix, Arizona.

*Information provided by: Sharon and Don Snavelly, daughter and son-in-law.*