



JOHN TOOLE

- **Insurance, Author, Mayor**
- **Born.** June 1, 1918 in Missoula, Montana.
- **Parents.** J. Howard and Marjorie Ross Toole.
- **Married.** Barbara Keith on January 3, 1942. They had two children.
- **Died.** November 26, 1989 in Missoula, Montana. John was struck by a car and truck after he wandered into traffic. Although physically fit, dementia had developed.
- **1936.** John graduated from Missoula County High School.

He then attended Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service.

- **1940.** John earned a Bachelor's Degree in economics from the University of Montana.
- **WWII.** John served in the U.S. Army. He spent most of his 44 months of service in the European Theater. John rose in rank from a Private to Infantry Captain. He was awarded the Silver and Bronze Stars and the Order of the Purple Heart with an oak leaf cluster.
- **1945.** John founded the insurance and bonding firm of Toole and Easter. He served as President.
- John dismantled a log cabin on an area ranch and log by log reassembled it on a point of land on Lake Inez, Montana. (Lake Inez is located 60 miles northeast of Missoula, Montana.)
- John was quite the piano player and sometimes entertained the lunchtime crowd at the old Palace Hotel.
- **1953.** John was elected to the Montana House of Representatives.
- **Commissions.** John was Chairman of Missoula's Citizen Committee for Better Government and led a successful reform of city government. He served as Chairman of Montana Citizens for President Eisenhower. He served as Chairman of the Citizens Bridge Committee where he led drives for new bridges over the Clark Fork River at Higgins Avenue, Madison Street, and Russell Street.
- **1955.** John served as President of the Missoula Chamber of Commerce and as an officer in the Missoula Kiwanis Club.
- **1960's.** John was a member of the University of Montana's Council of 50. He served as Chairman of the UM School of Business Administrations Advisory Council.
- **1965.** John was elected as Director of the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis. He was also a board member of First National Bank of Missoula, Missoula Community Hospital and Mountain Bell.
- **1972.** John served as First Vice President of the Montana Constitutional Convention. He was a member of the Local Government Study Commission in 1976, served on the City-County Planning Board and City Park Board.
- **1976.** John was appointed to the Missoula City Council in 1976.
- **Author.** John Toole wrote and published many books. Some of the most known are: Red Ribbons, A Story of Missoula and its Newspaper, Battle Diary, The Baron, the Logger, the Miner and Me, Men, Money and Power, Rape of the Great Plains, Montana Images of the Past, History of Montana, Montana, An Uncommon Land, and Montana is Our Destination.

"A fraction of a second later, I hear a mortar shell explode close to my rear. I know I'm hit and I'm instantly jubilant. I run back about forty feet and fall in a hole. A kindly trickle of blood runs down my pant leg....."

Lt. Toole was wounded in 1944. This is from the diary he kept diary, the Battle Diary

- **1983.** Elected as Missoula's 47th Mayor. He served 25 months. John focused on long range planning issues such as open space and park land. One of his largest issues dealt with the City of Missoula's foiled attempt to take over Mountain Water Company. The City of Missoula attempted to give its citizens control of their own water system. Another issue that held great importance to him was the option of running a railroad line from Missoula through the Bitterroot Valley. The concept was to use this as a mass transit system. John felt this idea held vast potential.



Located in Grave 8, Lot 3, Block 49