

Col. John Brooks Devoe OBITUARY

Use photograph prepared for Church service

STRATHAM-Col. John Brooks Devoe, USAF (Ret.), 89, of 117 High St., died January 26, 2012 at the Rockingham County Nursing Home, Brentwood, New Hampshire. He was born November 6 1922 in Boston, son of the late Charles L. and Grace (Goodrich) Devoe.

He was a graduate of Mechanic Arts High School, Boston, in 1941, a graduate of Massachusetts College of Art with a B.A in Art in 1950, and a graduate of Columbia University with a MFA in Art in 1951.

Airman, artist, and author, his 25 years of military service began in 1942 when he was accepted for the WWII U.S. Army Air Corps Aviation Cadet program, graduating from pilot school in 1944 and commissioned as a 2nd Lt.. He flew sixty Combat missions in the Southwest Pacific Theater participating in some six campaigns. Active in the reserve components of the USAAF and USAF during his college years he was re-called to active duty at the beginning of the Korean War.

He served in staff positions at Strategic Air Command Headquarters, Eighth Air Force Headquarters, and the Office of the Secretary of the Air Force, Pentagon, as Chief of the Air Force Art and Museum Branch.

He was awarded Command Pilot wings in 1962 and accumulated a total of 4,000 flying hours during his active and reserve career, a qualified Aircraft Commander in some eight or more types of aircraft with some 2,000 hours in the 85-ton, 16,000 H.P. Boeing KC-97 air refueling tanker. He was a Flight Leader and Aircraft Commander on the tanker in two different Air Refueling Squadrons in the Strategic Air Command.

He retired, from the Pentagon, in 1968. His some fourteen decorations included the Legion of Merit and the Air Medal.

He also was an art teacher at Exeter Junior High School, Exeter, NH retiring in 1985.

An artist of some merit, his paintings were exhibited in a number of juried shows in museums across the U.S. including the Smithsonian Institution. A half dozen or so of his works are in the Air Force Art Collection. While in the USAF he designed a number of military insignia and many brochures.

A respected Acadian genealogist, he published (1999) the well-received *Devoe-deVaux Family History 1691-1991* as well as articles, over the years, for a number of genealogical periodicals.

A member of the Experimental Aircraft Association, he spent some ten years constructing an all-wood, high performance Falco sport plane, taking it, at age 72, on its maiden flight in 1995. He was also a member of the Air Force Association and the Military Officers Association of America.

He leaves his wife Gwendolen Young Devoe of 26 years, two children Joan Devoe Miller, of Stratham, and John B. deVaux, Jr. (Allison) of Farmington, Connecticut, two step-children Dale Craig (Trisha) of Stratham, Wendy Craig Ward (Daniel) of Bridgewater, NH, one brother Dr. Charles L. Devoe (Mary Elizabeth) of Lexington, MA, three sisters, Patricia Devoe McDonough of Bedford, MA, Joanne Devoe Aieta of Easthampton, MA, Mary Devoe O'Connor of Hingham, MA, and brother-in-law Neil O'Connor of Bensenville, IL. He also leaves four grandchildren, Emily Miller of Somerville, MA, Peter Miller of Jackson, NH, Matthew and Charles deVaux of Farmington, CT, and one step-grandchild Samuel Ward of Bridgewater, NH. and many nieces and nephews.

He was pre-deceased by his first wife of 35 years Genevieve (Roster) Devoe who died in 1982, daughter Jill Devoe Gray (2009), his sister Grace M. O'Connor of Bensenville IL (2004), a brother, Rev. Richard M. Devoe, Maryknoll Missioner of Taiwan (2006), step-grandchildren Christopher and Noel Ward (2005) and a brother-in-law Thomas O'Connor (1992).

SERVICES: Friends and family are invited to attend visiting hours from 4 to 6:30 p.m. at Brewitt Funeral Home, 14 Pine Street, Exeter, NH on Wednesday, February 1st. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:30 a.m. Thursday, February 2nd at St. James Church, 2075 Lafayette Road, Portsmouth, NH. The family requests in lieu of flowers, donations be made in his memory to Portsmouth Catholic SHARE, 98 Summer St. Portsmouth, NH or to the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 99-101 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116