

## The Life of John Miller Cassady

John Miller Cassady passed away on April 26, 2004 at the age of 78, born on November 16, 1925. He leaves behind loving wife of almost 57 years Eva (nee Bakanauskas); son Lt. Col. John M. Cassady, Jr. USMC (wife Lt. Col. Kayla Pagel, USA Retired, grandchildren Peter and Hope); daughter Monica (grandchildren Harrison, Patrick, and Kelly); daughter Donna (husband Lou, grandchild Crissy); daughter Doreen (husband Len, grandchildren Len III, Nicole, Carly, Ashley, and Ben), brothers Bill and Leonard, sisters Louise and Helen (deceased), and a large group of family and friends.

John was born in Philadelphia, Pa., but moved to Louisiana at a very young age. He returned to Philadelphia at the age of 10. He joined the Navy as a teenager during WW II and entered Naval Flight School April 1945. He was part of Torpedo Squadron 9, based on the aircraft carrier U.S.S. Essex, participated in a number of missions and saw battle at several sites in the Pacific. He left the Navy briefly after WWII, but returned to the Navy and flew a variety of aircraft, including A-4 jets off of various carriers while serving two tours of duty during the Vietnam Conflict. He retired from the Navy in 1973, at the rank of CWO-3, after flying over 370 combat missions. His Decorations include the Air Medal with "V for Valor", 5 stars in lieu of subsequent awards, Presidential Unit Citation, Navy Unit Commendation, Navy Commendation Medal, Good Conduct Medal (4), American Area, European Area (1 Star), Pacific Area (12 Stars), Korean Area, Vietnam Area, Philippine Liberation (2 Stars), Vietnam Service medal, World War II Victory medal, National Defense Service medal (1 Star), and the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry.

After his Naval retirement, he attended and graduated from Glassboro State College with a B.A. in Physics in June 1975. While attending Glassboro State, he was self-employed in the field of communications system repair and systems consultant. He worked for seven years as an engineer for the New Jersey Broadcasting Authority. He had a teaching career in Digital Electronics that included Burlington County Vo-Tech, Camden County College and over ten years at Gloucester County College. During his term at Gloucester County College, he survived a near-fatal crash due to mechanical failure of his private Cessna aircraft, along with a passenger, his Vietnam-era friend Ted Armstrong. Once recuperated enough, he returned on crutches to his teaching duties. During his stint at Gloucester County College, he was instrumental in developing the robotics and computer-automated manufacturing programs.

John remained active in his retirement, with varied interests and enjoyed his family and friends. He was an officer and a gentleman, whose kindness, love, and wisdom will be deeply missed.