



JACOB J HOKE

Jacob J. Hoke passed on Tuesday, April 12, 2017.

Jake, as he preferred to be called, was born in the small town of Colville Pennsylvania on November 2, 1925. But, don't bother looking for it on a map; long ago, it merged into Canadensis, thus it no longer exists. Jake was raised in Canadensis, the only son with five sisters: Edna, Dorothy, Gertrude, Betty, and Roberta.

During WWII he was drafted out of his senior year in high school and completed his GED while in the Army's 96th Infantry. He served in the Pacific on Leyte and Okinawa. During the final 4 months of the war, Jake was promoted to Staff Sergeant and was given the position of platoon leader even though his rank was not commensurate with that leadership position. After the war all 96th Infantry Riflemen were awarded, by Presidential order, the Bronze Stars for Meritorious Service. This partially made up for a Bronze Star that Jake was to be awarded in Okinawa, but lost due to paperwork when it was to be upgraded from Meritorious to Heroic for saving multiple lives of the members of his platoon. Jake always said that he did nothing heroic, believing that he only performed his duty.

After his discharge, he returned home where he worked construction jobs prior to taking an apprentice position as an electrician. Little did he know, his life was about to change. One hot summer day, a friend asked him to be the wingman on a date, arranged with two city girls that were looking "for a good time." Jake accompanied the second girl; her name was Patricia (Pat). The date did not go well, and Jake wrote it off. However, the next summer Pat's family again vacationed in Canadensis, and again Jake and Pat reluctantly got back together. For whatever the reason, this time they "clicked" and Jake's life was forever changed. Jake and Pat kept in touch and finally Jake moved to Brooklyn, New York to be with her. Pat and Jake were married on October 1, 1950; they raised two children in Brooklyn, Arthur and James. Jake worked as a soda jerk, window washer, and handyman until Pat's father got him a job at Chase Manhattan Bank as an elevator operator. Jake was not happy with the job and was planning to quit when David Rockefeller stepped into his elevator and they struck up a conversation. Mr. Rockefeller asked if he was happy with his position. Jake responded that he was not, that the position was below his ability and that he was trained as an electrician. Mr. Rockefeller told him not to quit, and to give it more time. A few weeks later, Mr. Rockefeller entered the elevator again, and this time he told Jake to report to the Electricians on Monday. Jake worked as an electrician for Chase until the department was outsourced to an external company. Jake was transferred to the Locksmith Shop and trained as a locksmith. Jake eventually earned the title of Master Locksmith and was given his own shop at 1 Chase Manhattan Plaza that he ran until his retirement.

Early in his childhood Jake became infatuated with airplanes. With his sights set on becoming a pilot, he began building and flying models. It wasn't until after his military service that he was finally able to pursue his dream to begin pilot training. Unfortunately, with the termination of the GI bill, he could not afford to complete the training to earn his pilot's license. After his retirement, Jake continued with his lifelong hobby of building and flying model aircraft. He is one of the founding members of the Staten Island Radio Control Modelers. He was a proficient flyer, trainer, Safety Field Marshal, and friend and mentor to many of the members of the club.

Jake is survived by his son Arthur, his sisters Dorothy and Betty, his daughter-in-law Lydia, and grandchildren Jennifer and Lauren. He is predeceased by his wife Patricia, his son James, and his sisters Edna, Gertrude, and Roberta.