

MANCUSO, Frank Ernest

December 25, 1923 – September 16, 2010

323rd BG / 45th SQ

Gunner

Frank Ernest Mancuso, age 86, of Newark and Lewes Beach, DE, passed away at the Heartland Hospice House on Thursday, September 16, 2010. Frank was born December 25, 1923 in Richwood, WV, the son of the late Anna and Guy Mancuso. At the age of two his family moved to Lansdale, PA. In January 1942 he entered the Army Air Corps and trained as an air crew member on the B-26 Martin Marauder.

In February he went overseas with the 323rd Bomb Group, 454th Bomb Squadron, and was stationed primarily at Earls Colne, England. He flew 67 missions as a top turret gunner on the B-26 and was credited with shooting down an FW-190 on his 4th mission over Amiens, France. Frank was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with one cluster and the Air Medal with 10 clusters.

After his honorable discharge in June 1945 he obtained his commercial pilot's license, single engine land and sea, as well as Ground Instructor ratings in Aircraft and Theory of Flight, Aircraft Engines, Navigation, Meteorology, and Civil Air Regulations. He then joined U.S. Flying Services Inc., St. Petersburg, FL. as Supervisor of Training; moved on to Hawthorne School of Aeronautics, Spence Air Base, Moultrie, GA as Chief Dispatcher. Next he joined Central Airlines, Fort Worth, TX. as Supervisor of Accounting; then joined Capital Airways New Castle, DE. as Operations Supervisor. In August 1961 he joined Allstate Insurance Company, retiring as a General Agent in 1987. Frank was a charter member of the Air Force Association, past President of the 454th Bomb Squadron Association, past President and current Treasurer of the Council of Ocean House Condominiums, Lewes, DE. and an active member of St. Margaret of Scotland Catholic Church.

In addition to his parents, Frank was predeceased by his beloved daughter, Jane A. Volk in 2009; his sisters, Angeline Hostelley and Mary Lengyel and his brothers, Samuel, James and Joseph Mancuso. He will be dearly missed by his loving wife of 65 years, Clara Jane (Berton) Mancuso; his son, Frank A. Mancuso of Orlando, FL; his granddaughter, Jessica Anne Volk of Bear and his son-in-law, John W. Volk of Bear; his sisters, Josephine Russo of Lansdale, PA. and Rose Kohlman of Hatfield, PA and his four-legged granddaughter, (Golden Retriever), Bailey of Bear, DE.

Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated on Wednesday, September 22, at St. Margaret of Scotland Church, Route 40 and Frazer Road, Newark at 12:30 pm, where friends may call after 10:30 am. Burial will be in the Delaware Veterans Memorial Cemetery, Bear with full military honors.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be sent to the St. Margaret of Scotland St. Vincent de Paul Society, 2431 Frazer Road, Newark, DE 19702.

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