

John Paul Wallace

John Paul Wallace, 68, passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by his family, on Saturday, Feb. 13, 2010.

Born on July 31, 1941, to Paul Hoffman Wallace and Dorothy Tschannen Wallace, John was raised in Kingman, a small town in Northwest Arizona.

Following graduation from the University of Arizona in Tucson with a degree in Public Administration, he was commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. He served as an air traffic control officer at Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point and Iwakuni, Japan and rose to the rank of captain when he resigned his commission to join the FBI.

In 1968, John joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent. His 26-year career with the FBI included assignments in Cleveland, Minneapolis, San Francisco, Washington DC and Quantico, Va. where he worked high-profile organized crime, kidnapping, and counter-espionage cases. He was highly respected by his peers and received commendations from Director J. Edgar Hoover for his exceptional accomplishments. His most rewarding tour was as the Principle Instructor for the Washington Field Office where he was responsible for training FBI and other police agency personnel.

John retired from the FBI in 1995 and worked for a short time developing new training facilities at the National Rifle Association Headquarters in Virginia.

He and his wife retired and moved to Greenville in 1996 to be closer to family. John remained active in many organizations and provided services as a professional guide for military tours of World War I and World War II battlefields in Europe and the South Pacific.

Among other organizations, he was active in the Marine Corps Historical Society and the local Marine Corps League.

John is survived by his loving wife, Doris Owens Wallace of Greenville; daughter Anjanette Wallace Holt and her husband, Ben Holt, and their three children, Garrett Rhymes Holt, Carmela Diane Holt and Amelie Gail Holt of Norman, Okla.; son, Major Steven Owens Wallace, USMC, his wife, Jill Lambertus Wallace, and their two children, Eleanor Clara Wallace and Katherine Elizabeth Wallace, of Quantico, Va.; and brother, Robert Marvin Wallace and his wife, Lorraine Phillips Wallace, of Prescott, Ariz.

John loved to travel. Along with his wife, over the more than 43 years of their marriage, he visited many foreign lands throughout Europe, the Pacific Rim, Australia and New Zealand. They enjoyed sightseeing and making new friends. John had an insatiable thirst for historical knowledge. He savored the aesthetic things in life and will always be remembered for his extraordinary sense of optimism, tenacity and perseverance in overcoming obstacles with a "can do" spirit.

His battle with leukemia would have quickly defeated a man of lesser strength. His cheerfulness and positive attitude during his difficult illness was an inspiration to his family, friends and medical staff. In lieu of services, family and friends are invited to share a celebration of John's life at the family home tonight at 5 p.m. Memorial contributions may be made to Home Away From Home Program, c/o Marine Corps League, 204 Maraschino Drive, Greenville, North Carolina 27858 or the Marine Corps – Law Enforcement Foundation, Inc. 10 Rockefeller Plaza Suite 1007 New York, New York,

Arrangements are by Joyner's Funeral Home. Condolences may be directed to www.joyners.net.

Here is John with one of his many 'toys'. In his collection, he had over 80 Garand M1 rifles, assorted pistols, assorted machine guns and a wide selection of foreign weapons.



As a side note if any of you have seen the movie "Flags of Our Fathers", which is about the battle on Iwo Jima during WWII. In the scene at the end of the movie where the Marines dedicate the memorial depicting the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi, the rifles carried by the Marine Honor Guard were all from John's collection.