



John J. Forst, P.E. (LT COL USAF) (Ret.)

December 27, 1922 - July 17, 2021

John J. Forst, P.E. born December 27, 1922 in New York City, NY passed away peacefully July 17, 2021 in his home in Sarasota, FL. His wife of over 70 years Jean K. Forst and sons John K., and James K. were by his side. He is survived by his wife Jean, his sons John (Christine) and Jamie, and many loving nieces and nephews and their families.

John is the son of the late John Forst of New York City, NY and West Palm Beach, FL and Anna Forst also of New York City, NY and West Palm Beach, FL. He graduated from Palm Beach High School in 1940. After graduating Palm Beach High, he joined the US Army Air Force and served in the Fifteenth Air Force through the end of World War II. His active-duty service included flying 33 heavy bombing missions on a B-24 Liberator Bomber in the European Theater of Operations, Rome-ARNO, Balkans, Southern France, and Southern Germany. He earned several decorations and citations including a Purple Heart Award. After his active-duty service, he served in the United States Air Force Reserves until his retirement as a Lieutenant Colonel in 1971.

He earned Bachelor's and Master's Degrees in mechanical engineering from the New Jersey Institute of Technology. He was inducted into the Pi Tau Sigma Engineering Honor Society. He was a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers and the National Society of Professional Engineers.

After returning from WWII, he worked for Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill, NJ in materials and mechanics research and development including some of the technologies ultimately resulting in the development of the transistor. While at Bell Labs, he met Jean Kelly, who became his wife of over 70 years. He then returned to government service working for the US Department of Defense. During the energy crisis in the early 1970's he became responsible for strategically vital energy and related satellite-based defense technologies and was one of the early leaders of the US Department of Energy. His final post at the Department of Energy was with the Office of International Security Affairs in Washington, DC where he was the head of engineering for numerous satellite sensor and related energy defense programs. He managed programs at Sandia National Laboratories, Los Alamos, NM, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA, Argonne National Laboratories, IL, and numerous others.

Upon retirement in 1986, he moved from the family home in Great Falls, VA to Sarasota, FL and enjoyed an active, long, and full retirement. He and Jean enjoyed traveling, visiting friends and family, and many outdoor activities.

Funeral services will be held at the Sarasota National Veterans Cemetery on July 29, 2021 at 11 AM. Full military honors will be presented. The family will receive friends from 6-8 PM on July 28, 2021 at the Toale Brothers Funeral Home – Gulf Gate Chapel 6903 S Tamiami Trail, Sarasota, FL 34231, ph. 941-955-4171.

In lieu of flowers, kindly consider donating to the Tidewell Hospice Foundation 5955 Rand Blvd., Sarasota, FL 34238, or by visiting <https://tidewellfoundation.org/donate/>.

Previous Events

Family will receive friends

JUL **28**. 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Toale Brothers Funeral Home & Crematory - Gulf Gate Chapel

6903 S. Tamiami Tr.

Sarasota, FL 34231

(941) 955-4171

info@toalebrothers.com

<https://www.toalebrothers.com/>

Tribute Wall

DC

“ *Sincerest condolences on the passing of your dad. May his memory be eternal!* ”

Dean Coclin - July 29, 2021 at 09:08 AM

JW

“ *John and Chris, Ronnie and I are so sorry to hear of the loss of your father. Our hearts are not able to accept the death of a parent no matter what age we are. What an extraordinary man he was and we are able to see so much of his attributes in you. I pray for your peace and comfort knowing he was able to be surrounded by all his families love at his end of life .* ”

Deepest sympathies. Ronnie and Joy

Joyce Webb - July 29, 2021 at 08:21 AM



“ *Divine Peace Bouquet was purchased for the family of John J. Forst, P.E. (LT COL USAF) (Ret.).* ”



July 27, 2021 at 01:03 PM

BC

“ As a child and a young adult, I will always remember the wonderful memories that Jean and John created for me. Whether in Virginia or Sarasota Florida. I'll always have them. John Sr. will be missed by all.

*My deepest sympathies,
Brent Conway and Family*

Brent Conway - July 27, 2021 at 12:13 PM

BF

“ Brent Conway and family purchased the Caring Condolences Sympathy Basket for the family of John J. Forst, P.E. (LT COL USAF) (Ret.).



Brent Conway and family - July 27, 2021 at 12:04 PM



“ Emerald Garden Basket was purchased for the family of John J. Forst, P.E. (LT COL USAF) (Ret.).



July 26, 2021 at 02:18 PM



“ Sentiments of Serenity Spray was purchased for the family of John J. Forst, P.E. (LT COL USAF) (Ret.).



July 26, 2021 at 10:54 AM

BC

“ John--
Your father's extraordinary life of leadership and service provided the example you followed to achieve your own successes. In turn, your many accomplishments honor him. Mary joins me in sending our condolences to you and your Family. Strong arms...
--Bruce Morgan Casner

Bruce Morgan Casner - July 25, 2021 at 10:06 PM

JS

“ John -- *We bid farewell to your father, another member of the Greatest Generation. Your Dad is a shining example of a life well lived. May he rest in eternal peace!* -- John S.

John Sylvester - July 25, 2021 at 09:07 PM



“ John:
What a life - one of service to his country and love of family and friends. And it sounds like there was a remarkable and long love affair in there as well. No wonder his son became a pillar of service and friendship.

Brian Regan - July 25, 2021 at 06:49 PM

FA

“ Chris, John, and Jamie,

So sorry for your loss. My thoughts are with you.

Frank



Frank Araby - July 25, 2021 at 05:52 PM