

# JOSEPH ALPHONSUS CRIST, JR.

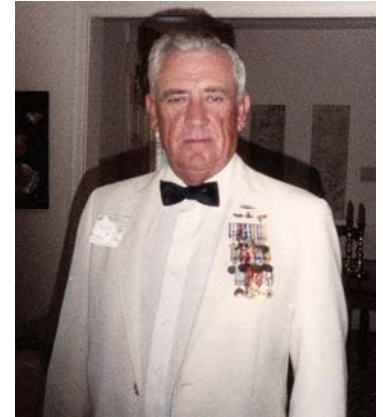
1 October 1926 - 25 February 2008



1945



Retirement 1972



Reunion 1990

The family of Retired US Army Sergeant First Class Joseph Alphonso Crist, Jr. would like to inform you of his passing on 25 February 2008 due to complications from cancer.

Born in Pennsylvania on 1 October 1926, Joseph joined the US Army in September 1944 at the age of 17, participating in several military campaigns. Over his 28 years of military service he was awarded the Triple Combat Infantry Badge, 4 Purple Hearts, 3 Bronze Stars and a Silver Star, to name a few. Joseph retired from the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Bragg on 30 June 1972. He served several offices with the North Carolina Retired Military Association and worked briefly at Fort Bragg Post Engineers in maintenance before relocating to Florida. While in Florida he held several offices in the VFW. He lived his last six years at Beech Mountain, North Carolina.

Joseph was preceded in death by his parents, Retired Colonel Joseph A. Crist, Sr. and Alice Elizabeth Coughlin Crist, his brother Retired Master Sergeant James Richard Crist, and two nephews.

He leaves behind his son, Retired Seattle Police Officer Michael Joseph Crist and his wife Terri of Camano Island, Washington and their family; his daughter, Lisette Wanda Crist Gionti and her husband Retired USAF Master Sergeant John Gionti of Bellbrook, Ohio, and two grandsons, Airman First Class Matthew Dominic Gionti of Tyndall Air Force Base, Florida and Nicholas Joseph Gionti of The Ohio State University; his sisters Kathryn Thompson, Nancy Kleinhans, and Alice "Johnnie" Neville and their families. He left behind many special friends in his Beech Mountain community.

In lieu of services he willed that his ashes be scattered privately on Grandfather Mountain, North Carolina on October 20<sup>th</sup>. His wishes have been granted. May those who knew him find peace.

"War is fear cloaked in courage." — General William Westmoreland  
"Theirs not to reason why, Theirs but to do and die..." — Lord Alfred Tennyson