

Harry James Maihafer - August 8, 1924, to January 26, 2002 - seventy-seven years of life packed with accomplishment and joy.

Harry was born in Watertown, NY, the only child of George and Loretta Maihafer. He lived in Carthage, NY, where his father, who was the owner of a large bakery, died when Harry was six, at which time Harry and his mother moved to Syracuse, NY. There he attended parochial schools and graduated from Christian Brothers Academy in '41. He was the captain of the tennis team and was undefeated in both singles and doubles throughout HS and was the Boys Tennis Champion of Syracuse in 1940 and the Junior Champion in 1942. These feats foreshadowed what was to become a lifetime of excelling in tennis.

Harry once told his daughter, Patti, that one should live three careers: one in service, one to make one's fortune, and one for enjoyment. Harry did exactly that.

Harry started his first career in 1943 when he volunteered for the Army Air Corps. He was in training in the Pre-Flight school at the San Antonio Aviation Cadet Center, when he received his appointment to West Point.

At West Point he was on the C-Squad cross country and track teams, but his first love was tennis. He won an "A" and gold stars for beating Navy in each of his last two years. He was also on the debate team. During his First Class year he was the Second in Command of E-1 Company.

Two days after graduation, on June 9, 1949, he married Jeanne Mietzfeld. He had a joyful marriage, and was blessed with four children: Veronica, Mary Patricia, Margaret Mary, and Douglas.

Upon graduation he was commissioned in Armor and assigned to the Officers Basic Course at Fort Knox, Kentucky. The Korean War started while Harry was at the OBC at Fort Knox. He was sent to Korea where he was assigned to I Company, 21st Infantry Regiment, 24th Division, as an infantry platoon leader. In that capacity, Harry was wounded by a rifle bullet through his left thigh. Upon return to his unit from the hospital he became the Company Executive officer. Early in 1951 he became Aide-de-camp to Maj. Gen. Blackshear Bryan, Commanding General, 24th Infantry Divi-

sion.

During his tour in combat in Korea, he was awarded the Silver Star, the Bronze Star with "V" for valor, an Army Commendation Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, Purple Heart, and the Korean Service Medal with seven battle stars.

While in Korea he had requested and received a transfer to the infantry, because, as he said, "I was on the verge of coming home from the Far East as a Captain of Armor who hadn't been in a tank, it seemed somehow logical." He left Korea at the end of '51 for an assignment to Fort Dix, NJ.

Harry's twenty year military career was varied, fulfilling, and eventful. After Korea, he served as a Company Commander, Battalion S-3, and Regimental S-3 with the 47th Regt, 9th Division, Next he served as an Instructor in the Office of Military Psychology and Leadership at West Point. Subsequently he was assigned to Germany, first as a Company Commander with the 1st Battalion, 48th Infantry, in Nuremberg and Worms, then as an Assistant Secretary, General Staff in Heidelberg. Back in the US he was sent to First Army Headquarters, Governors Island, NY as Senior Aide to the Commanding General, First Army, who was also Senior US Army Member on the Military Staff Committee at the United Nations. Reassigned to Korea, he was Secretary, General Staff of the 7th Logistical Command. He then attended the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS. He served in the Pentagon in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. Chief, Business Branch, Business and Labor Division in OSD Public Affairs. His last assignment was at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, GA as Information Officer for the Third Army. He was retired the last day of 1969 as a Colonel.

He took a break in his regular military assignments to attend graduate school at the University of Missouri, Columbia, MO where he received a Masters degree in Journalism. Afterwards, while still on active duty, he started doing some freelance writing. He had articles published in ARMY, Military Review, Naval Institute Proceedings, The Apostle, and the Catholic Mission Digest.

Upon retirement from the Army, Harry launched himself on his second ca-

reer as a banking executive. He worked for Citizens and Southern National Bank, Atlanta, as Training Director. He later worked for Union Planters National Bank in Memphis, first as Vice President, Organizational Development, and later as Senior Vice President, Director of Personnel and Secretary of the Board of Directors, and finally worked for the Commerce Union Bank and Commerce Union Corporation in Nashville, TN, as Senior Vice President and Director of Human Resources.

Harry retired from his second career in 1987.

Harry's third career, his "enjoyment" career, involved writing and publishing numerous articles and seven books. The book most cherished by his classmates is "From the Hudson to the Yalu" which is a living history of the Korean War which relates the firsthand combat experiences of his classmates - the class of 1949.

Harry is survived by his wife of 52 years, Jeanne Maihafer, of Nashville; three daughters, Veronica Barnes of Charlotte, NC, and Patti Thompson and Peggy Maihafer, both of Nashville; and seven grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his son, Douglas P. Maihafer.

Harry was loved and respected by his classmates to whom he was an inspiration, and by all who knew him throughout his life. His classmates remember him for his cheerfulness and constant high spirits. He radiated happiness, joy, and integrity, He was friendly and courageous, and was the epitome of "Duty, Honor, Country". It was an honor to have known Harry, and our lives are better for having known him.

We miss you, Harry.

Adrian Beecher Brian
USMA Class of 1949