



Mr. Daniel Zack

August 30, 1925 - August 13, 2018

Daniel Zack, 92, of Pittsfield, died peacefully on August 13, 2018, after a short illness. Born in 1925, the son of Dymtro and Lena N. Zakordonsky, Mr. Zack attended local schools and was a 1943 graduate of Pittsfield High School. After graduation, Dan enlisted in the U.S. Navy and served, from 1943-1946, aboard the destroyer, U.S.S. Laffey. The Laffey, known as “the ship that wouldn’t die,” sustained 22 kamikaze attacks during an 80 minute battle (part of the invasion of Okinawa), and still remained afloat. The Laffey received a Presidential Citation for its bravery and action at Okinawa. Mr. Zack’s remembrances of his time on the Laffey, which included defending Utah Beach during the invasion of Normandy, the invasion of Iwo Jima as well as battles at Leyte and Lingayen in the Philippines, were detailed in noted war historian and author John Wukovits’ book on the Laffey, “Hell from the Heavens.” This book is currently being made into a movie, directed by Mel Gibson.

Upon his return from WW II, Dan worked at General Electric Plastics division for a year before entering Coyne Electrical School in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated in 1948 and returned to Pittsfield where he worked as a transformer test supervisor in the Transformer division of General Electric. After 39 years of service at General Electric, Mr. Zack retired in 1986.

Daniel married his high school sweetheart, Phyllis Goodrich, in 1948. They were married for 65 years before her death in 2014.

Mr. Zack was a member of the GE’s Quarter Century Club, GE’s Forman’s

Club, the Dalton V.F.W and the U.S.S. Laffey Association.

Daniel is survived by his daughters, Valorie Trela of Windsor and Leslie Zack of Pittsfield, his two grandsons, Brenden and Ryan Trela of Windsor, and his brother, John, and sister-in-law, Ruby, of Garden Grove, California.

He is predeceased by his wife, Phyllis, his son-in-law Francis J. Trela, and his brothers, Peter, Michael and William.

A graveside memorial service is planned for the Fall.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations may be made in his memory to the Berkshire Humane Society.

Tribute Wall

DL

“ *My condolences on the loss of Dan. He and my father (Charlie Fessenden) enjoyed each others company over the years. My dad thought highly of him. May he rest in peace. My thoughts and prayers will be with you.*

Deb Fessenden LHote

DEBRA LHOTE - August 18, 2018 at 02:32 AM