



Bedford J. Groves

July 31, 1920 - March 15, 2011

Bedford Groves passed away at the Chester River Manor on March 15, 2011 at age 90.

Born on July 31, 1920 at Turners Creek near Kennedyville, MD, he was the son of the late, William B. and Catharine R. Groves. He was the husband of Hildegard M. Groves of Chestertown, formerly of Munich, Germany whom he married February 1948.

After graduating from High School in 1937, Mr. Groves employed by Koppers Co. in Baltimore until 1943 at which time he enlisted in the Army. He saw wartime combat with the 45th Thunderbird Infantry Division at Anzio and in the southern France, Elsass and Germany. He was in Munich at the end of the war where he met his bride to be.

His military awards include the Bronze Star, Purple Heart with Bronze Oak Leaf Cluster, Bronze Arrowhead for Amphibious Landing, the Combat Infantryman Badge, World War Victory Medal, Ribbon of Occupation in Germany and a Good Conduct Medal. Staff Sergeant Groves received an Honorable Discharge December 1945.

Bedford returned to military service January 1946 in the Counter Intelligence Corp and was assigned as a Special Agent in the Stuttgart-Goeppingen region of Germany. He received medical discharge December 1947. Mr. Groves enrolled as a full time student at Washington College in 1948 and graduated magna cum laude in 1952 with a major in English. He was

employed by Washington College for 35 years in various capacities and in 1973 was appointed assistant to Dr. McClain, President of Washington College. In 2002 Mr. Groves was awarded the Washington College Presidential Citation, one of the highest honors bestowed by the College. The citation states, in part, "He knew everything there was to know about Washington College, and he performed all of his duties with meticulous care and a generous, patient kind spirit, earning the respect and admiration of the entire College community. In all of his varied posts, he worked selflessly behind the scenes to insure that the public perceived the College in the best possible light. Throughout more than three decades of service to Washington College, he understood the intricate machinations that make our fine College such a valuable asset to the community."

Bedford was a Charter Member of the American Legion C. Henry Price Post 246, and a Life member of the Disabled American Veteran Chapter # 9 in Centreville, MD. He was a member of Anzio Beachhead Veterans of WW II and Purple Heart Delmarva Chapter # 570 and the National Amputation Chapter. While living in Betterton he was very active in many civic organizations.

He is survived by his wife; Hildegard, a son; James W. Groves and wife, Doris of Chestertown, MD and daughters, Hildegard Brigitte Groves and husband, Charles Berry of Gaithersburg, MD, Margarethe Crockett and husband, David of New Carrollton, MD; five grandchildren; two step-grandchildren; sisters, Rebecca Smith of Easton, MD, Ruth Elliot and husband, Robert and Mary Roe Walkup of Still Pond Creek, MD, Rusty Brandon of Earleville, MD and Virginia Liddell and husband, Glenn of Federalsburg, MD. Bedford was predeceased by a sister, Anna Belle Darwin.

Funeral Services will be held on Saturday, March 19, 2011 at 11:00 am at Fellows, Helfenbein & Newnam Funeral Home, 130 Speer Road, Chestertown, MD where relatives and friends may call one hour prior (10-11).

Interment will be in Still Pond Cemetery following the service.

In Lieu of Flowers, contribution may be made to Betterton Volunteer Fire Co.,
P.O. Box 235, Betterton, MD 21610 or Betterton United Methodist Church,
P.O. Box 131, Betterton, MD 21610.

Tribute Wall



“ *Bedford J. Groves*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *Bedford J. Groves*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *Bedford J. Groves*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *To Hildegard and family, I was so sorry to hear of your fathers passing. My thoughts and prayers are with you. Many Blessings, Patty##imported-begin##Patrica Ensor##imported-end##*

April 08, 2011 at 01:44 PM



“ March 22, 2011

We will always remember Bedford—for his loyalty and generosity to his friends and neighbors, for his service to his country and his community, and for his great good humor.

We remember how warmly he and Hildegard welcomed us when we moved next door to their home on First Avenue in Betterton, and how Bedford was always ready to offer help or advice or information about the community and its resident wildlife--as when he explained in response to our inquires that the racket we heard late one spring night was the call of “an unattached mockingbird.”

Bedford’s strength of character and good humor in the face of disappointment and loss were an inspiration, and his spirit will endure in the hearts of all who knew him.

Nancy and Jim Steele

Betterton##imported-begin##Nancy and Jim Steele##imported-end##

March 23, 2011 at 04:47 PM



“ *I have the fondest memories of Uncle Bedford, who to me epitomized the "Groves Ethic": kindness, selflessness, optimism, good humor.##imported-begin##Bob Walkup##imported-end##*

March 21, 2011 at 07:20 AM



“ *Uncle Bedford played a big part in my college career. Thanks, Uncle Bedford. Love, Greg##imported-begin##Greg Brandon, Nephew##imported-end##*

March 17, 2011 at 09:36 AM



“ He was an elegant man.##imported-begin##Elizabeth Clark
##imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 09:49 PM



“ I am so very sad that my dear, dear friend and first boss at Washington College has passed. I went to visit him during the Christmas holidays and he was sleeping peacefully and I didn't wake him. Mr. Groves was a very special person in my life. I learned more from him during the time I spent as his secretary than I learned for two years at secretarial school. The very first lesson I learned was NOT to mail the letter your boss dictated until he signed it! He was so very very kind and patient. He also had a wonderful sense of humor and often laughed at and with that very young and inexperienced woman who was trying so hard! Some of the best lessons I learned were learned at his desk. He used to tell everyone how impressed he was with my dictation skills. He didn't realize that he was the best boss I ever had to take dictation from - he spelled all of the hard words for me. I will miss my kind and patient friend. Mrs. Groves, your loving devoted care has been an inspiration. It is a beautiful love story!
With love and sorrow -
Pat##imported-begin##Pat Vickers Smith##imported-end##

March 16, 2011 at 04:20 PM