



## John H. Eppler

November 15, 1921 - October 30, 2012

John H. Eppler of Easton, MD, died October 30, 2012, at the Talbot Hospice House. He was 90.

Born in Baltimore, MD, in 1921, he was the son of John Brandt Eppler and Bess Eiser. He graduated from the A Course of the Baltimore Polytechnic Institute in 1940 and was voted the senior who had done most for the school. He entered Cornell University as a sophomore where he graduated in 1943 with a degree in Mechanical Engineering. John was a three sport varsity athlete at Cornell where he was the diver on the swimming team and played 150 pound football and lacrosse. He was a member of three academic honorary societies that included Tau Beta Pi, Sphinx Head, and Atmos and belonged to Sigma Alpha Epsilon fraternity. During the summer of 1942, while working at a General Motors assembly plant, he earned a private pilot's license to fly single engine land aircraft.

Following graduation, he immediately joined the Navy and was commissioned an Ensign, Aviation Specialist, and spent four months at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. From here, John spent a brief period at the Naval Air Station at Norfolk, VA, then two years in the Pacific theater directing overhaul and repair of aircraft instruments and electrical accessories. Upon returning to the States, he was assigned to the Bureau of Aeronautics and stationed at Mojave, CA, where he did test work on various air breathing jet engines.

There he met his wife, Lorraine, and they were married after his discharge from the Navy, in September of 1946 with the rank of Lieutenant.

After leaving the Navy, John accepted a job with the Glenn L. Martin Company in Baltimore in their Pilotless Aircraft Division as a designer of supersonic ram jet engines. Two years later he left the Martin Company and took a position with The John Eppler Company that was founded in 1850 by his great great-grandfather. At that time, the firm, which manufactured high quality white oak barrels for the aging of rye, bourbon, scotch and rum spirits, was operated by his father and grandfather and was in need of younger management. He greatly expanded the scope and size of the business and prior to the time he sold his share of the business, it had expanded fourfold.

In 1980, John was employed by Suntory Limited, a Japanese manufacturer of pharmaceuticals and high quality whiskey, wines and beer. They had purchased a run-down facility in the USA to produce the raw material for manufacturing, in Japan, the casks required to age their spirits, but the facility had to be replaced. He was successful in building the most advanced facility in the country to manufacture this product. When his contract expired, he was only a few months from the retirement age of 65 thus he retired from Suntory. John continued to work for another ten years until he moved to Easton, MD, doing what he loved, engineering consulting.

John's three greatest passions were flying, tennis, and fishing. After returning from WWII, he again took up flying and honed his skills by being eligible to fly multiple engine aircraft and becoming instrument rated. He extensively used the aircraft he owned to travel between home and his out of town facilities or clients when he was consulting.

John was a member of the Baltimore Country Club, where he played squash, tennis and golf for 54 years before moving to Easton. He was currently a

member of the Talbot Country Club and a past member of the Chesapeake Bay Yacht Club.

John is survived by three children, Deborah MacIntyre of New York City, Karen Leleu of Paris, France, and her twin brother, Dr. John H. Eppler, Jr., of Baltimore; six grandchildren, Cole and Amanda Smith of New York City, Dr. Henri Leleu of Paris, France, Timothee Leleu of Tokyo, Japan, and John Brandt Eppler and Daniela Eppler of Baltimore. He is predeceased by a brother, William B. Eppler.

A memorial service will be held on Saturday, November 3, at 3 p.m. at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Oxford, MD. Interment will be private.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Talbot Hospice Foundation, 586 Cynwood Drive, Easton, MD 21601.

## Cemetery Details

**Private**

## Previous Events

### **Service**

NOV 3. 3:00 PM (ET)

Church of The Holy Trinity  
Oxford, MD

# Tribute Wall



“ *John H. Eppler*

October 26, 2023 at 06:42 PM



“ *John H. Eppler*

January 28, 2023 at 12:44 PM



“ *John H. Eppler*

January 28, 2023 at 08:03 AM



“ *Nancy Littrell lit a candle in memory of John H. Eppler*



Nancy Littrell - November 03, 2012 at 09:30 AM