

Walter J. Portune



Walt was 90 years old when he passed away Saturday, January 1, 2011 at Hospice of Dayton. He is known for a long and distinguished career in Air Force radar and electronic warfare research. He attended the University of Cincinnati and captained the varsity baseball team. He served in WW II as an Army Air Force officer in early radar development and attended MIT and Harvard. His career continued at WPAFB as a division head in radar and electronic counter-measures research. He worked in the Antenna Barn . In building 620, the laboratory exploratory and advanced development programs he directed made significant advancements in EW technologies. Programs he promoted included receiver detection and warning in the RF and IR spectrums. In electronic attack, he directed programs in RF jammers and IR flares. He was an early contributor to signature reduction research and an

advocate for simulation and analysis. Many operational EW capabilities can directly trace their origins to research Walt led. He was a founding member of the Association of Old Crows and involved in early stealth technology.

Walt was preceded in death by his wife, Kathleen Portune on October 6, 2010 and his brothers: Bob and wife Alice of Cincinnati, Lee and wife Carolyn of CA. and Jack (killed in WW II). He is survived by his children: Dr. Richard Portune and wife Phyllis of Beavercreek, Buzz Portune and wife Marilyn of Kettering, Mary Kay Noble and husband David of Mentor and Leslie Fisher and husband Robert of FL. Eleven grandchildren also survive him: Lisa Portune, Matthew (Bridget) Portune, Emily (Brian) O'Hara, Laura (Ben) Cordell, Kevin Portune, Sean Noble, Katie (Todd) Dooley, Ryan Noble, Kristina Fisher, Eric Fisher, Scott Fisher and great- granddaughter Lillian O'Hara. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Church and the Free Spirits.

October 26, 1920 - January 1, 2011