

# Colonel Raymond J. Wienk USAFR

1923 - 2016



Ray Wienk of Arcade, New York passed away peacefully on September 22, 2016 in Olympia, WA. He was born on a dairy farm in East Otto, NY, on June 28, 1923, the eldest of four children. Ray and his beloved wife of 65 years, Phyllis Voelker Wienk, lived most of their lives together in Arcade. Phyllis passed away in 2013.

Ray had a passion for flying and airplanes. In World War II, he served in the 20th Army Air Corps piloting B29 and B24 bombers in the 498th Bomb Group, Saipan, Asiatic-Pacific Theater. He retired as a Colonel from the Air Force Reserve after 32 years of service. Many of those years he was a Liaison Officer for the Air Force Academy and selected cadets from Western New York for the Academy.

He went on to serve in the US Air Force and AF Reserves, until his retirement with the rank of Colonel (O-6) in August of 1975.

For his Service to our Nation, Col. Raymond J. Wienk was awarded: American Campaign Medal; Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal; WWII Victory Medal; Armed Forces Reserve Medal w/Silver Hourglass; Air Force Outstanding Unit Award; Presidential Unit Citation.

Throughout the years, he flew for the Civil Air Patrol and actively participated in the Aero Club of Buffalo and the Aircraft Owners & Pilots Association. Together with Phyllis, they ran the Niagara Frontier Air Force Association Scholarship Program.

Typically, he wore many hats throughout his life. He and Phyllis had a dairy farm where they also raised ponies, Ray moonlighting in milking equipment sales and service. Later, he was a highly sought-after troubleshooter for Buffalo Forge, which took him all over the world repairing equipment.

Ray is survived by his son Cliff Wienk (Deb) and daughter Kyle Noble (Carol), brother Arnold Wienk (Kay), sisters-in-law Anita Wienk and Lois Milleville, seven adoring grand children and nine great-grand children, many extended family and close friends. Ray was a loving father, husband, grandfather and friend to all.