

## WILLIAM J. COLLIS

1922-2014

### FAMILY HISTORY:

William J. Collis was born in Cohoes, New York on June 5, 1922 to parents William Jr. and Margaret (Curran) Collis. William was an only child.

### EDUCATION:

Bill graduated from CBA in 1940. He also attended RPI and graduated from Colgate University in 1948 after he returned from serving overseas.

### HISTORY:

Bill entered into the United States Marine Corps Reserve on August 28, 1942. He served as a Scout/Observer and Heavy Machine Gun Operator with Recon Platoon, Headquarters Company, 24th Marines. He participated in action against the enemy at Kwajalein Atoll, Saipan and Tinian of the Marianas Islands in the South Pacific. Bill was sent back to the United States to attend Officer Candidate School prior to his unit landing on Iwo Jima in February of 1945. Private First Class William J. Collis was honorably discharged on November 16, 1945. For his brave and honorable service to his country, he was awarded the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with three Bronze Stars, the World War II Victory Medal, A Presidential Unit Citation with one Bronze Star and The Combat Action Ribbon.

### WORK EXPERIENCE:

He was employed as a health care professional working for several pharmaceutical companies, as well as, for the New York State Health Department.

### COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES/ORGANIZATIONS:

Bill was a life member and Honorary Commandant of the Troy Detachment, Marine Corps League, the Fourth Marine Division Association and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was an endowment Life Member of the National Rifle Association and a Life Member of The West Albany Rod and Gun Club. Bill was on the shooting team for the Marine Corps League for many years. He was awarded the Colonel Robert Craner Service Medal by the City of Cohoes. Bill enjoyed target shooting, reading, movies, hunting, fishing and he loved the

outdoors. He also loved helping with parades and charity fundraisers for veterans organizations. Bill was a Marine, first and foremost.

Sadly, William J. Collis passed away on April 25, 2014 and was buried at the Gerald B. H. Solomon Saratoga National Cemetery.