

## BIO FOR WALTER STITT

Walter was born to Walter Sr. and Ruth Crickenberg Stitt in Marietta, OH on July 24, 1924. His father, a WW1 veteran, and a graduate of Marietta College was a salesman for The Marietta Chair Company later owned by Remington-Rand Corp. In the following years of the Depression Walter, his brother Richard and sister Sara lived in six different locations finally in 1938 in Elm Grove, WV a suburb of Wheeling.

After High School Walter worked as a routeman for Royal Crown Cola. He entered the Service on March 27, 1943 and spent the next 14 months at Camp Polk, LA. On May 30, 1944 he left the US on the Queen Elizabeth and docked in Scotland on D-Day, June 6<sup>th</sup>.

In July he joined the 3<sup>rd</sup> Armored Division as a tank gunner. His Company, E of the 33<sup>rd</sup> Armored Regiment became part of Task Force Lovelady and fought through France, Belgium and was among the first to cross the Siegfried Line into Germany. Due to wounds and injuries Walter was sent on "Limited Service" to England and the 95<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group.

After his discharge Walter enrolled at Marietta College but left several years later and went to work for a construction company in Wheeling. He was labor foreman, paymaster, timekeeper, and was trained to use a transit. He left this job when he married Betty Bailey after her CUM Laude graduation from Marietta College. They lived for seven years in Columbus, OH and had three children, Robert, William, and Beverly. Work moved them to Indianapolis in 1959.

The next year, Walter felt the call to ministry and they moved to Springfield, OH where he graduated from Wittenberg Univ. and Hamma School of Theology. His first parish, for 12 years, was in Louisville, KY. His next call was as Assistant to the Bishop and a move to South Bend, IN. After ten years he went back to the parish for 4 more years and then retired.

Walter and Betty loved to travel and visited 29 different countries. In South Bend he joined Kiwanis and was twice Club President and spent one year as Lieutenant-Governor. He also sang second tenor with the Michiana Male Chorus for over 20 years. Walter now lives in Springfield, OH where he does his own cooking, laundry, shopping and still drives.

In July 2022 he was Knighted by the Consul-General of France from Chicago into the French Legion of Honor. In November of 2022 he was privileged to lay a wreath on the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier on behalf of the Veterans of the Third Armored Division.

Walter claims he cannot remember ever turning down a free beer!