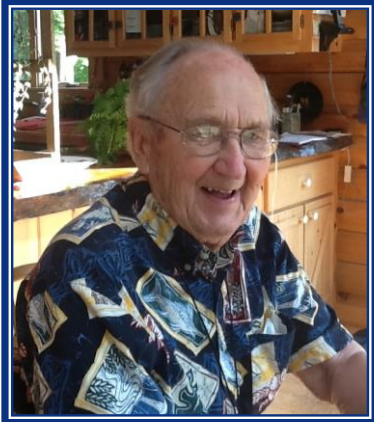




New Hampshire Veterans Home

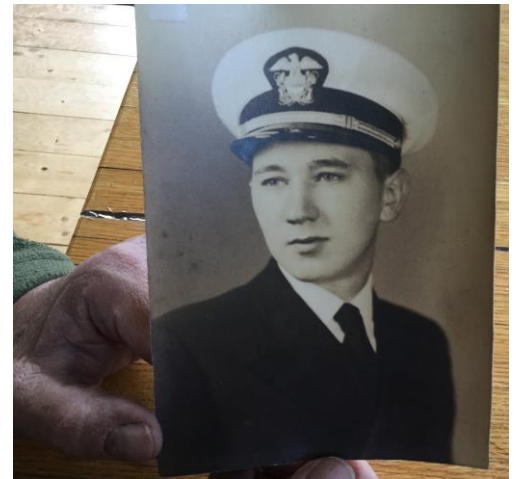
139 Winter St.
Tilton, NH 03276



George Degelmann *Resident Spotlight – Mid-May 2020*

George Everett Degelmann was born May 27, 1920, in Secaucus, New Jersey. His mother, (who lived to be 100), always disputed this and said he was born on May 28th. She insisted that the doctor who delivered him at home was drunk and wrote the wrong date on his birth certificate. One of his vivid childhood memories is running down the street at age 7, yelling to the neighbors, “I have a baby brother!” (his only sibling, Bobby). The family spent enjoyable summers at Pinecliff Lake in northern New Jersey, where George swam and indulged in his love of orange creamsicles. He attended St. Peter’s Prep and St. Peter’s College, graduating with a Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy and Sociology.

George enlisted in the Navy in 1942, and spent Christmas of that year in the Panama Canal. He became an ensign in February 1943 and one week later met the woman who would later become his wife, Eileen Maria Dooling. They enjoyed dancing to the Big Bands of the era while he was on leave. George spent his entire wartime service in the South Pacific on the USS Leedstown. He participated in 6 invasions: Kwajalein, Guam, Peleliu, Leyte, Iwo Jima, and Lingayen Gulf. He took boats of Marines into the beaches for several of these, but later in the War was Personnel Officer for the ship. His final rank was Lieutenant (junior grade). George and Eileen attended many ship reunions over the years.



George and Eileen married in 1948 and moved from New York City to Wilton, CT, in 1950, in the middle of a hurricane. A few years later they moved to a house on a hilltop in Wilton, where they spent the remainder of their 61-year marriage until Eileen’s death in 2009. They had four daughters, and lost one son as an infant. George sang and acted in many productions of the Wilton Playshop. He was in the choir of Our Lady of Fatima Church in Wilton for 50 years, originally doing Gregorian chant. He was also a member of The Gentlemen Songsters for many years, performing at nursing homes and public concerts.

Some of the highlights of his life were the trips he and Eileen (and sometimes other family members) took to Ireland, his adopted country. They connected with Eileen’s relatives, some of whom also came to visit in Connecticut.



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His career in the window business took him all over the Northeast and into New York City, where he once met a much younger Donald Trump on a job site. He remembers that “he was difficult even back then”. After retiring, George continued to work part-time in various jobs and was still driving and working several hours a week until age 91. At that time he gave up living alone in Wilton, and moved to Marlow, NH, to live with his daughter Jeannie and her husband Gus. Several years later he moved into Silver Maples Assisted Living in Claremont, where he discovered his talent for adult coloring. He has always been a voracious reader and still spends some time with this interest, along with crossword puzzles, dominoes, and singing, both the old standards and his own compositions.



Best wishes to George as he joins the Centenarian Club this month!

