



Sebastian "Buzz" Vetri
1922 - 2004

Sabastian "Buzz" Vetri

Feb 25, 1922 - Jan 12, 2004

AAFA #0303

Philadelphia Inquirer

Jan. 14, 2004

VETRI, Sebastian A.

81 of Mt. Laurel, NJ died Monday, January 12, 2004 at Virtua West Jersey Hospital Marlton in Evesham Township, NJ.

Mr. Vetri was born in Philadelphia, PA and lived in Telford, PA before moving to Mt. Laurel 9 years ago. He was a customer consultant working for Soffa Maker in Souderton, PA for 20 years retiring in 1998. Mr. Vetri honorably served his country in the United States Army during World War II.

Mr. Vetri is survived by his wife Doris O. (nee Alford); sisters Rose Pizzutillo and Florence Sayarese and her husband Fred both of Mt. Ephraim, NJ, Rita Camardo and her husband Joseph of Haddon Heights, NJ and Jeanette Fiola Clapp and her husband Frank Clapp of Cherry Hill, NJ; step-children Kathie Wagner of Mt. Holly, NJ, Brenda Garis of Riverview, FL, Jill Ruch of Stockertown, PA and Scott Kemmerer of Quakertown, PA. Also surviving are 7 grandchildren and a great grandchild.

A viewing will be held on Thursday, January 15th from 10:00 to 11:30 AM followed by an 11:30 AM funeral service all at the Mt. Laurel Home For Funerals, 212 Ark Rd, Mt. Laurel. Interment will be at New Saint Mary's Cemetery, Bellmawr, NJ. Those wishing to make donations in memory of Mr. Vetri may do so to the Deborah Hospital Foundation, NJ Region, PO Box 820, Browns Mills, NJ 08015-0820.

In Remembrance

Sebastian "Buzz" Vetri

1922-2004

By Doris Alford Vetri, AAFA #0303, Member of AAFA Hall of Fame

Sebastian and I were married for 17 years though we knew each other about 30 years. He was more than a husband, he was my best friend. We took many trips, some clear across the states. On these trips, he would tell me stories of his early years. This is some of what I want to tell you about my husband.

He was born in south Philadelphia, PA that was and still is an Italian neighborhood. The family moved to Mt. Ephraim, NJ when he was 5 years. Mt. Ephraim at that time was very country and the family raised chickens and sold eggs back in the old neighborhood. He was raised in a very Italian family. He was the only son, sandwiched between his 4 sisters. He graduated from Audubon High School in 1940. It was his desired to go to college and be an architect. His father had other ideas. Buzz often defied his father I am sure as he remembered many punishments that he thought he didn't deserve but was meted out to him over the years. This time he did as his father wished and sought work. He had many jobs while in school, such as parking cars for a restaurant and at a local gas station. His first full time job was with Bausch-Lomb in Philadelphia as a lens crafter. He would take the bus to work and one day saw a line of people at the Camden Shipbuilding Yards. Inquiring he found they were waiting for jobs that paid twice what he was getting, so jumped off the bus and stood in line. He was hired and this began his career as a ship fitter. He was due for a promotion when he decided to join the Army. He enlisted Oct 17, 1942. Was given a test, with some 500 other enlisted men, to be trained to be a pilot. He was one of the top 10 which entitled him to attend the University of Buffalo in Buffalo, NY. He entered the service Jan 30, 1943 and thought he would be traveling away from New Jersey for his basic training. This was not to be. His basic training was in Atlantic City, NJ. The Army had taken over the convention hall and hotels for basic training of service men.

After basic training he went to University of Buffalo to complete their necessary requirements for him to train to be a pilot. He moved around the states training in different planes. He attended many training schools, Math & Science, Pre Flight, Primary Armored, Chin Gunner. The war ended before he finished training. He was always very proud of his time in the service. He was discharged Feb 20, 1946. He served in the Army Air Force Reserve till Feb 20, 1949.

Life went on after the service and Buzz worked for over 20 years for Beck Engravers as a printer and pressman. But he was never satisfied to have just one job. He was always trying to make something better. He loved to work with his hands. He would buy homes and than remodel and sell. He worked as a real estate agent also d~ng this time. He was part owner of a restaurant in New Jersey. He owned a building, which he converted to apartments. After his father passed away he was given the lot next to his home and built an 8-unit brick apartment building, which still stands. He had sold this to go into partnership in a furniture store in Quakertown, PA. I think here is where Buzz found his true calling. He was a born salesman. He not only sold the merchandise, he was the customer consultant. He really did enjoy this but partnerships don't always work out and he sold his share. He stayed in the furniture business with Sofa Maker of Souderton, PA his last employer as a customer consultant. They manufactured an sold their product. He really hated to stop working, even driving 3 days a week 1 ½ hours after we moved to New Jersey. His health finally made it necessary.

He always liked working with his hands and I look around this house and see much of his work. He made cabinets in the laundry room, shelves in closets. He would make my frames for cross-stitching. He always encouraged my projects and would work with me to complete these many projects over the years. He drew plans for a table in the kitchen and with the help of our son-in-law, who had the best tools money can buy, successfully completed that project.

AAFA Meetings was always fun for both of us to attend. When I became involved more with the association so did Buzz. He couldn't just sit when there was something to sell and I can still remember Earline and Buzz taking over the store for Andrea and doing a great job. Later when Earline took on the job of raffle items, they were again a team. I believe this last year in Little Rock was the first year he didn't help out.

The members of AAFA have been so very kind and loving to Buzz and I. He appreciated all the prayers and thoughtfulness that came his way. He was a compassionate, loving, and thoughtful husband, son, brother, uncle and stepfather. His words of wisdom and advise to his family will live on by their words and deeds. He will be missed but he will be forever in our heart and memories.

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From AAFA:

It was always difficult to tell which one, Doris or Buzz, was the Alford. Buzz always had a great big smile, greeted each one as if he was there Alford blood cousin, genuinely happy to see you. I truly believe there is not an Alford out there who enjoyed AAFA meetings more the Buzz. His bright shining smile will be truly missed.

—Ramona Alford Darden

The Vetrus joined the AAFA in April 1990 and I met Buzz in Raleigh, NC later that year. They were both very interesting and interested. Doris expressed a desire to serve in some way and I remember a one-on-one discussion with Buzz in which he expressed far more interest than one would expect from the spouse of an Alford. They made every other meeting after that except for 1996 in Springfield. I can reflect back on each one of those gatherings and remember some time I spent talking to Buzz and they were always

enjoyable experiences. It was our pleasure and good fortune to have the Vetris as our guests in Florissant on one occasion and we enjoyed their company very much. After the 1997 meeting in Pleasanton, CA the four of us, Doris, Buzz, Mary and I took off on a trip to the north via the California costal highway. Mary and I were in the minivan loaded down with books full of dead Alford data following Doris and Buzz who were in a speedy little white rental car. We spent several days together along the coast making it into Oregon before the Vetri's had to return to San Francisco to catch their flight back to New Jersey. It was an experience that none of us will ever forget and now as I look back on my times with Buzz I am so glad we got to make that trip together. He was a true friend, a great person and someone who we will miss.
—Gil Alford



Doris and Sebastian Vetri

2002 Salt Lake City Meeting Friday's Session

Earline Alford had a presentation to make before the session got under way. This was to a gentleman who has provided a great deal of assistance with the raffle over the years. He has handled the money for the raffle tickets, and he has sold raffle tickets and quite a seller he is. But, most of all, he has been a genuine, all around nice fella willing to pitch in wherever he was needed. You will never meet a nicer person than this gentleman. His name is Sebastian "Buzz" Vetri, husband of Doris Vetri, Mbr. 0303 and the AAFA Treasurer. My wife presented him with a golf shirt with the outline of the state of New Jersey, his home state, embroidered on the left side with the state bird, an American gold finch, sitting atop the state outline.



Doris and Sebastian Vetri



Sebastian "Buzz" Vetri