

Jack Winfield Worrel 96, of Naples Florida passed peacefully in his beloved home Friday, March 10, 2017 after a brave and well fought battle with Alzheimer's disease.

Jack was born October 3, 1920 in Columbus, Ohio as the only boy to the late Jean and Lola Worrel. He grew up on the west side with his two sisters, Rene and Betty, and graduated from West High School in 1938. He attended the Ohio State University for two years before entering the US Army Air Corps in the Pacific Theatre of WWII. Jack bravely completed over 40 missions as a tail-gunner in a B-24 bomber as part of the 431 Squadron of the 7th Air Force. Jack was very proud of loyally serving his country earning both the Air Medal awarded for meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight and the Distinguished Flying Cross for support of operations by "heroism or extraordinary achievement" while participating in an aerial flight. He was the last surviving member of his plane's crew.

Upon returning to Ohio, he went to work at the Sun Life Insurance Co. It was there that he met the love of his life, Jean Womeldorf, while selling her insurance. They married in Columbus at the First Baptist Church on Broad St. September 26, 1946. Jack and Jean had 4 beautiful children, Elizabeth Ann, Martha Jean, Kathrine Lynn, and Jeffrey Alan. Jack was a smart and industrious businessman who successfully formed and operated both Columbus Maintenance and Cameron Service in Columbus for over 35 years.

Jack was an active member of the Athletic Club of Columbus (ACC) where he and Jean were quite the socialites-they bowled in the Friday night couples league and attended many parties and dinners. He was a powerful force in the Wednesday night men's league, played handball, and regularly had lunch in the grill room.

After retiring and moving to Naples in 1984, Jack and Jean traveled far and wide and had many amazing adventures together. Jack's favorite adventure that he loved to talk about was his South African Safari. When he was not globetrotting, you could find Jack, the card shark, playing a hand of bridge, attending the Optimist Club, or having dinner with his Shrine buddies. Jack and Jean were also among the original volunteers to usher at the Naples Community Theatre. For anyone who was privileged enough to have known this wonderful man, they would tell you he was a jokester who loved to laugh and always had a prank up his sleeve. But most of all Jack loved his family, and was the most devoted husband, father, uncle, grandfather and great grandfather. He was respected and beloved by his entire clan.

Jack is survived by Jean, his loving, devoted wife and caretaker of over 70 years, daughter Katie (Gayman) Chambers of Athens, son Jeffrey Worrel of Naples, 8 grandchildren, their spouses, and 6 great grandchildren.

Besides his parents and two sisters, Jack is preceded in death by his daughter and son-in-law Elizabeth Ann & Charles Morin, Martha Jean Lord, and his grandson Kevin Morin.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held later. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in memory of Jack W. Worrel to Avow Hospice Care of Naples.