



## Remembering our brothers who have passed from this life

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### YON, RADM JOSEPH L. '30

Rear Admiral Joseph Yon, whose ship was torpedoed during WWII and who served as chief of surgery on a hospital ship during the Korean War, died 10 February 2007 in Chesapeake. He was 95.

Yon graduated from VMI and received his medical degree from the University of Virginia in 1937. He was commissioned in the Navy as a Lieutenant(jg) in 1938 and served aboard ship at various Naval hospitals during his 34 years on active duty.

He was the medical officer on the *USS Pecos* (AO-19) which was torpedoed and sunk on 1 February 1942 while engaged in the withdrawal of the Atlantic fleet to Java. He and the other survivors spent eight hours in shark-infested waters before being rescued and taken to Australia. He received a Purple Heart for wounds he received in the sinking of the *Pecos*.

After a year of duty ashore, Yon was involved with the commissioning of the Bethesda Naval Hospital before returning to the Pacific Theater as chief medical officer on the *USS Miami*, where he served during the Marianas Campaign and six other actions until the end of the war in September 1945. In the Korean War, Yon was chief of surgery aboard the hospital ship *USS Consolation* off the coast of Inchon.

He completed a residency in thoracic surgery at Northwestern University and the Cook County Hospital in 1949 and commanded Naval Hospitals at Newport,

RI, St. Albans, NY, and the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth before his retirement in 1972.

Admiral Yon received the Legion of Merit, the Secretary of the Navy Commendation with pendant, the American Defense Medal with star, the Asian Pacific Campaign Medal with seven stars, the National Defense Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, the Korean Campaign Medal, the Philippine Liberation Ribbon with two stars and the Korean Presidential Unit Citation in addition to his Purple Heart.

After his military service, Yon took the lead in developing an Eastern Virginia Medical School. He served on the Board of Visitors for Old Dominion University from 1975 until 1979. The Yon Student Health Center bears his name.

He was Chairman of the Chesapeake Hospital Authority during a crucial time of the hospital's development. Yon served on the Board of the Virginia Hospital Association and on the Board of Blue Cross/Blue Shield.

Yon was a skilled cabinetmaker and an excellent skeetshooter, breaking 260 consecutive clay pigeons in one match. An avid golfer, he played with a 16 handicap and celebrated his 90th birthday with a ride on his motorcycle.

He is survived by his daughter, Sallie Yon Williams, six grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was predeceased by his brother, **Charles Yon**, '29, his wife of 70 years, Sallie Haden Yon, and two sons, Dr. Joseph Yon, Jr. and Dandridge H. Yon.

At AMA, Yon was a Lieutenant in Band Company, a member of the YMCA and the Senior Literary Society, on the fencing and swimming teams, and in the Cadet Orchestra, the Golf Club, Red Wiley's Gang and the Stuart Hall Club.

(2007 Summer *Bayonet*)