

Hendershot, Jr, Leo F. 2013

Leo F. Hendershot, Jr. passed away on February 16, 2013, at Charlotte Hall Veterans' Home in Maryland. Born: July 23, 1933, in Phillipsburg, NJ, Leo was the only child of the late Leo F. Hendershot, Sr. and Eugenie M. (Smith) Hendershot. Personal: He married Janet N. Cheeseman in 1954, also of Phillipsburg, NJ, and together they raised three children: Steven D. Hendershot of North Carolina, and Scott F. Hendershot and Susan J. (Hendershot) Bearns of Maryland. Leo was the proud grandfather of eight grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. At his passing, Leo and Janet had been married for 58 years. A 1951 graduate of Phillipsburg High School, Leo enlisted in the US Air Force in 1953, completed basic training in Geneva, NY, and was initially stationed at Scott AFB in Illinois. After completing the Air Force Technical School for Communications, he was stationed in Niagara Falls, NY. Upon re-enlisting in 1957, Leo was assigned to McGuire AFB in NJ, then to Alexandria, LA in 1959. When his fighter squadron was split in 1961, Leo was sent to Thule AFB, Greenland, where he served a one year tour of duty before being relocated to Bolling AFB in Washington, DC, in 1961. In May 1962, he received a special duty assignment to the President of the United States at Andrews AFB, MD. The remainder of his military service provided support to Air Force One as part of Night Watch. Before his retirement in July 1977, Leo had served his country with honor for 24 years, achieving the rank of SMSgt, receiving various service commendations, and flying under the administrations of five U.S. Presidents: Kennedy, Johnson, Nixon, Ford, and Carter. Leo also earned his AA and BS degrees from Benjamin Franklin University. While stationed at Andrews AFB, MD, Leo variously volunteered as Commissioner, Coach, and Manager of the Youth Bowling Program. Over the 30 years he served in this program, from 1970 to 2000, Leo taught hundreds of children how to bowl, while also mentoring them in sportsmanship and good citizenship. One of Leo's greatest joys was seeing the bright eyes and smiles of these children as he presented them with their trophies, no matter how big or small, at the annual awards ceremony held the end of each bowling season. After leaving the Air Force, Leo began a new career with Tracor until retiring on disability in 1988. He continued working his own tax business, begun in 1978 in partnership with his wife Janet, until illness forced him to end the enterprise in 2012. Leo was buried with full military honors on February 21, 2013, at Lakemont Memorial Gardens Cemetery in Edgewater, MD.

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