

A Salute to John Ostrishko U.S. Army & U.S. Air Force

*Presented by
Pearson Wood, 2nd Vice Commander
American Legion Post 67
Cary, North Carolina
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John Dmytro Ostrishko was born January 23, 1933, at Horodok, Ukraine. He has two brothers and two sisters. While John was a child, the German army occupied the entire town of Horok and sent all of it's citizens to labor camps. They were liberated in April, 1945, by American troops. John and his family then stayed at a [Displaced Persons Camp](#), which was an old German army post at [Bayreuth, Germany](#), holding 5,000-6,000 people, until October, 1949.

John's father obtained visas to the USA for the entire family. They sailed by ship from Bremerhaven, Germany, and arrived at Boston, Massachusetts on October 14, 1949. They then ended up at a large estate in Virginia, where John went to high school, graduating in 1953. John also worked for a frozen food company in Washington, DC, prior to his enlistment.

John enlisted in the US Army on August 16, 1953, and took his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky. Then he was sent to Fort Jackson, South Carolina, a processing center, then on to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, for training in Military Intelligence.

While in the US Army, John became an American Citizen on November 11, 1954.

John was married on August 22, 1955, to Betty Watkins. Betty was born and raised in Durham, North Carolina.

John stayed in the Army until August 15, 1956. He had reached the rank of Sergeant (E-5).

On September 24, 1956, John joined the US Air Force, where he was also in Military Intelli-



gence. In 1959, he went to Electronic School at Biloxi, Mississippi for one year, then on to Dickinson, North Dakota, in an Air Defense System. In June, 1962, he was transferred to Iceland for a year.

Next assignment was at Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where he was in charge of Radio Communication Maintenance. Next stop was MacDill Air Force Base, Florida.

John also served in the Philippines at Clark Air Base, starting in 1965, for two years. Then on to South Korea for temporary duty (TDY) until 1970. Then to Arkansas, in Missile Communication Systems.

John retired in 1973 with twenty years of military service. He had earned the Air Force Commendation Ribbon and the Good Conduct Metal.

John and Betty returned to North Carolina where he worked for the Post Office from October, 1973, to March, 1974. Then to the City of Raleigh, where he was in traffic maintenance systems, later promoted to Traffic Signal Supervisor. In January, 1994, he retired again. He then did part time jobs in communications, etc.

John is now fully retired. John and Betty, had one daughter and two sons in that order. They also have two granddaughters. The entire family all live within twenty miles of each other.

John has been a member of American Legion Cary Post 67 for several years, having transferred from an Air Force Veteran's Post. His total service in all posts is twenty-seven years.

John Ostrishko, The American Legion Post 67, Cary, North Carolina, salutes you for your service to God and country!