

Platt Olin DeCamp

Platt Olin DeCamp was born June, 24, 1922 in Grover Hill, Ohio. His parents were Job and Carrie (Platt) DeCamp. He graduated from Celina High School in 1940. Immediately thereafter, he attended Lincoln Electric Welding School in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

In June 21, 1942, he married Eileen B. Kearns of Greenville, Ohio. The following year their first daughter, Karen, was born.

On June 30, 1943, Platt enlisted with the U.S. Army and remained on active duty until December 11, 1945. He was veteran of World War II assigned to the 90th Infantry Division which stormed the beaches of Normandy and marched across 1,000 miles of hedgerows, plains, hills rivers and forests (halfway across the continent of Europe) to the former Czechoslovakia. As a Tech 5 (Private First Class), he was a 1 ½ ton truck driver, hauling 57 mm anti-tank guns, ammunition and personnel. He also performed vehicle maintenance and light repairs. In addition, he served as cook. His military awards include: the WW II Victory Medal, European-African-Middle Eastern Campaign Medal with 5 bronze stars, and the Good Conduct Medal.

After being discharged from the Army, he returned home to his wife and daughter and a life of farming. His grandfather, Lewis Platt, had purchased land north of Coldwater after serving in the Civil War. Platt farmed this land for most of his life. He and his wife had two more daughters, Teresa and Dayle.

In later years, Platt and Eileen traveled extensively throughout the US, Canada, and Mexico in evangelistic ministry.

Platt fell ill while visiting his daughter Teresa and on February 2, 2009, he died at the Alfredo Gonzales Veterans' Home in McAllen, Texas. His fellow service members honored him with a "final salute" home as he departed the residence to return to Ohio where he was buried in Greenville next to his wife of 57 years.

Submitted by member Karen DeCamp Frenzer.