



### **John Everett Otten**

John Everett Otten was born to John (Jack) and Nina (Johnson) Otten March 5, 1931, in Erwin, SD. He grew up in Estelline, SD, with four sisters and graduated from high school in 1949. He was an avid sportsman enjoying softball, baseball, football, basketball, and hunting.

John enlisted in the United States Army in 1951, and after serving 21 years retired in 1971. His career in the army included many job assignments. He was stationed in Sioux Falls and Minneapolis as a recruiter in the

early 50's. He was also stationed in Germany for 8 years. He returned to SD in 1962 as an ROTC instructor and rifle team coach at USD and SDSU. In 1966, he did his first tour in Vietnam as a weapons advisor to the Vietnamese army. He returned for his second tour in Vietnam in 1968. During his Vietnam tours he received a Silver Star Medal, 2 Purple Heart w/OLC, Bronze Star Medal, and Vietnam Service Medal w/1 Bronze Service Star. He was a quiet hero and very proud of his country. He never minimized the sacrifices that soldiers and their family have to pay for the price of freedom for our country.

He married the love of his life of 51 years, Christa Kroker on January 20, 1962, in New Ulm, Germany. This union brought four redheaded daughters to the world: Marcene, Sonja, Sylvia, and Sandra. After his retirement from the army he moved his family to a farm near Elkton, SD, where he farmed for 8 years, another long-time passion of his. He then moved to Piedmont, SD, to be closer to his parents, and drove semi-truck for 8 years. In 1984, John took a postmaster position in Sinai, SD, working there for 2 years. John transferred to Delmont, SD, where he completed his postal career in 1994. John and Christa resided in Tripp, SD, for the last 25 years where he spent his time enjoying the daily political debates and government happenings, gardening, cooking, and spoiling his wife.

Along with being a proud patriot, he instilled the importance of education and hard work to his daughters and grandchildren, and helped them succeed in any way he could.

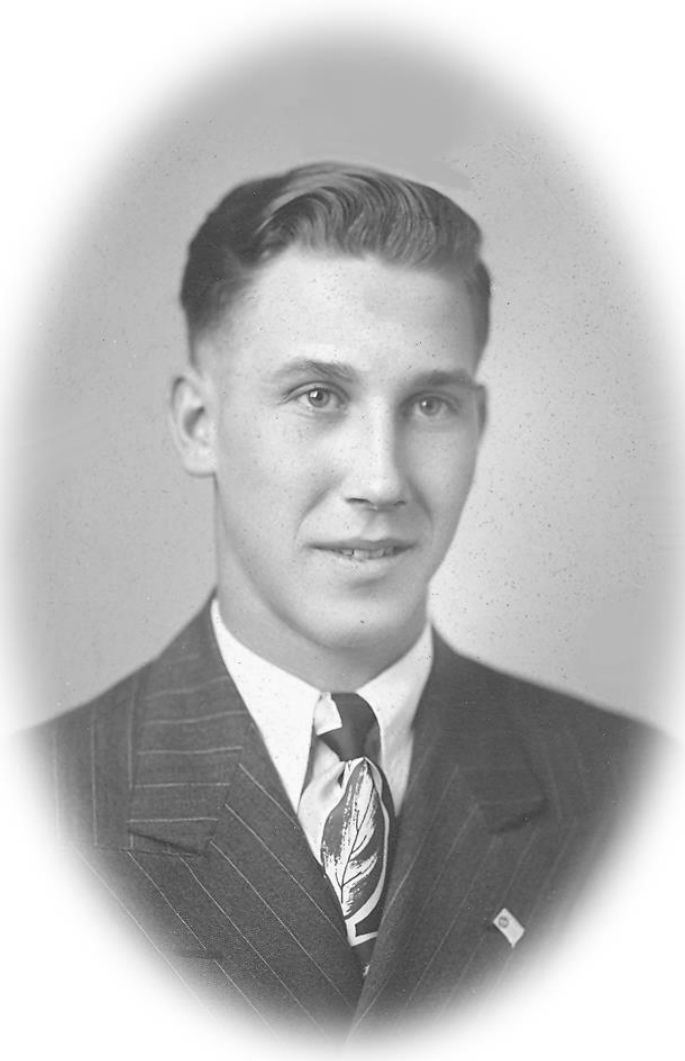
John, age 82, passed away peacefully at home surrounded by family on Monday October 28, 2013, in Sturgis, SD.

Happy and blessed to have shared his life are his wife, Christa; his daughters, Marcene (Frank) Bloom of Scenic, SD, Sonja Otten Fox of Hot Springs, SD, Sylvia Otten of Gillette, WY, formerly of Bruce, SD, Sandra (Dean) Baldwin of Sturgis, SD; sisters, Neva Howe of Ventura, CA, and Leone Mix of Arlington, SD; his eight grandchildren, Elliot and Hollie Bloom, Claudine and Joe Soester, John (Brooke) Otten, and Nodia, Stetson and Nadine Lippert; and three great-grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents; sisters, Marcene and Lucille; and one granddaughter, Alaina.

Condolences may be sent to the family at [www.kinkadefunerals.com](http://www.kinkadefunerals.com).

## ***In Loving Memory Of***



***John Everett Otten***

***1931 ~ 2013***



## **I AM THE FLAG OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice. I fly majestically over institutions of learning. I stand guard with power in the world. Look up and see me.

I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom. I am confident. I am arrogant. I am proud.

When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer.

I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world.  
I am worshipped -- I am saluted.  
I am loved -- I am revered. I am respected -- and I am feared.

I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years. I was flown at Valley Forge, Gettysburg, Shiloh and Appomattox. I was there at San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, in the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome and the beaches of Normandy, Guam, Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Korea, KheSan, and Saigon. Vietnam knows me, I was there. I led my troops, I was dirty, battleworn and tired, but my soldiers cheered me and I was proud. I have been burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries I have helped set free. It does not hurt, for I am invincible.

I have been soiled upon, burned, torn, and trampled on the streets of my country. And when it's by those whom I've served in battle -- it hurts. But I shall overcome -- for I am strong.

I have slipped the bonds of Earth and stood watch over the uncharted frontiers of space from my vantage point on the moon. I have borne silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hours are yet to come.

When I am torn into strips and used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the battlefield, when I am flown at half-mast to honor my soldier, Or when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving parent at the grave of their fallen son or daughter, I am proud.

MY NAME IS OLD GLORY LONG MAY I WAVE.  
DEAR GOD IN HEAVEN LONG MAY I WAVE!

*In Loving Memory Of*

## ***John Everett Otten***

### ***Born***

March 5, 1931  
Erwin, South Dakota

### ***Died***

October 28, 2013  
Sturgis, South Dakota

### ***Funeral Service***

Thursday, October 31, 2013, at 1:00 p.m.  
Kinkade Funeral Chapel

### ***Officiating***

Pastor John Williamson

### ***Musical Selections***

"One Day At A Time"  
"Ave Maria"  
"Detroit City"

### ***Pallbearers***

Frank Bloom ~ Dean Baldwin ~ Elliot Bloom  
Joe Soester ~ Stetson Lippert ~ Eric Mix

### ***Honorary Pallbearers***

John A. Otten ~ Charles Pecos ~ Bill Giles

### ***Military Honors***

Sturgis Veterans Honor Guard

### ***Interment***

Black Hills National Cemetery

*The family invites you to join them for fellowship and lunch at Believers Fellowship Church following the committal service. We thank you for your presence and condolences.*