



Charles A. Kestle

Co I 381st Infantry

Charles A. Kestle of Butte died Oct. 20, 2016. He was 93.

A Walkerville native, Charles was born Sept. 14, 1923, son of Charles and Lily (Hand) Kestle.

Early in his life he worked as a journeyman carpenter for the Anaconda Company. He apprenticed at the Copper Tanks, Leonard Mine Shops, and Columbia Gardens.

Charles attended the Montana School of Mines, UC Berkeley, Montana State College, and studied engineering with the Army Specialized Training Program (ASTP) in Chicago. He held degrees and professional licenses in architecture and engineering, and was a member of academic honoraries Phi Kappa Phi, Septemveri, Delta Phi Delta (Arts & Architecture), and Tau Beta Pi (Engineering).

During World War II, he attained the rank Cadet Captain with the ASTP. Charles also qualified as an expert rifleman, expert infantryman, and expert anti-tank weapons. He was transferred from Chicago to combat duty: first in the Philippines with the initial Oct. 1944 U.S. landings on Leyte, followed by Samar and then Okinawa where he led a 12-man rifle squad with the 96th "Deadeye" Infantry Division. He was wounded by a Japanese phosphorous bomb on Okinawa while advancing on the Shuri Line. He recovered in a hospital on Guam, and was stationed on Mindoro training for Operation Coronet when the war ended. At the close of the war the 96th Infantry was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation of the Philippine Republic and the United States Presidential Unit Citation.

In 1955, he married Janice Patterson of Forsyth, Montana. Janice moved from Forsyth to Butte in 1952 as an employee of the FBI.

Charles practiced architecture in Montana for 65 years. He was a generalist; he designed churches, schools, hotels, hospitals, parks, banks, and commercial, municipal, and campus buildings. He

particularly enjoyed residential projects, structural engineering, and environmental controls design. Throughout his design career, Charles continued his carpentry background with work on his residence and cabinetry/fixture building.

Charles was a career-long member of the National Council of Architectural Registration Boards and the American Institute of Architects (AIA). He served as president of the Montana Chapter AIA, chairman of the Montana Chapter AIA Research & Legislative Affairs Committees, finance chairman for the Northwest AIA Regional Conference, president of the Butte Society of Architects, Charter, vice president of the Montana Technical Council, and jury chairman for the Montana Chapter AIA Design Awards Program.

Charles also served as president of the Butte Kiwanis Club, president of the Butte-Silver Bow Planning Board, chair of the Board of Trustees at Aldersgate Methodist Church, president of the Wesley Foundation at Montana State College, and president of the Butte Symphony Board. Charles was a founding member of the Butte Symphony, and was principal trombonist with many civic, military, and collegiate groups.

He was preceded in death by his parents, sister, Gwen, and wife, Janice.

He is survived by sons and daughters-in-law, Chuck and Vicki Kestle of Butte, Scott and Helen Kestle of Port Orchard, Washington, and son, Jeff Kestle of Butte. He is also survived by his step-granddaughter, Nichole DeShazo and her husband Justin along with great-grandchildren, Owen and Quinn.

Services will be held Saturday, Nov. 5, at Aldersgate United Methodist Church. Visitation will start at 10 a.m., followed by services at 11 a.m. and a reception in the Church Fellowship Hall. Donations and memorials may be given to Aldersgate Church or to a charity of the donor's choice.

Axelson Alternative Cremation is privileged to serve the Kestle family.