

## Arthur W. Merrick, Ph.D.

Birth: Dec. 22, 1917  
Great Falls  
Cascade County  
Montana, USA  
Death: Feb. 14, 2013  
Helena  
Lewis and Clark County  
Montana, USA

Arthur Merrick was born and raised in Great Falls. His father, Arthur Sr., was a professional musician and bandmaster, and Arthur grew up playing classical and jazz piano. Arthur was a skilled athlete; his high school basketball team won the Montana state championship. In 1936, he enrolled at the University of Montana and majored in wildlife technology. Arthur was a member of Sigma Chi fraternity, played varsity basketball and tennis and was a senior honor student. As a musician, he fell in love with jazz, playing piano in a jazz combo and performing throughout his life.

Arthur earned a commission as second lieutenant in the Army infantry through ROTC. In December 1941, he was called up to active duty and assigned to the 41st Infantry Division, which represented Montana, Idaho, Washington and Oregon. He was shipped to the Pacific campaign in 1942 and was in active combat in New Guinea and the Philippines until the end of the war. Arthur was wounded in action and awarded a Purple Heart, as well as the Silver Star for courageous action. He was wounded twice more and awarded the Bronze Star and two presidential citations. After the war, he served with the Army Reserves for 25 years, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1971.

In 1945, Arthur married Judith June O'Brien, from Lewistown. They were together for 63 years until her passing in 2009. He returned to school and earned his Ph.D. in physiology at the University of Missouri in 1954. He taught there until 1968, and taught at Illinois State University until 1972. He then worked as a research grant specialist at the National Heart and Lung Institute in Washington, D.C., until his retirement in 1985. In 2006, Arthur and June returned to Montana.

Arthur and June were lifelong travelers and spent every summer exploring national parks in the U.S. and Canada. They loved northern Montana's Sun River Canyon area, where Arthur spent much of his life fishing and hunting. Other lifelong interests included Montana history, western American art, coin collecting and golf.

Arthur was preceded in death by his wife, June, in 2009. He is survived by five children, Lynne, Kathryn (Happy Feder), Christopher (Teresa Baker), Jill and Kelly (Javier Mouriz); and five grandchildren, ZuZu and Texel Feder, and Zachary, Justin and Jack Mouriz.

The family invites you to join them for a service of remembrance for Art at 3 p.m. today in The Forum Room of Touchmark, 915 Saddle Drive. Private burial with military honors will be held at the Montana State Veterans Cemetery at Fort Harrison. Memorials may be sent in Art's name to the Big Sky Honor Flight, P.O. Box 80201, Billings, MT 59108; or to the Montana State Veterans Cemetery, P.O. Box 5715, Helena, MT 59604. To offer condolences to the family or share a memory of Art, please visit below.

Burial:  
[Montana State Veterans Cemetery](#)  
Helena  
Lewis and Clark County  
Montana, USA

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Record added: Feb 27, 2013  
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