



J. Howard Rees

March 27, 1909 - July 5, 2012

J. Howard Rees Jr., 103, died Thursday (July 5, 2012) at his home in West Hartford, CT. Howard was born on March 27, 1909 in Nanticoke, PA. He was the son of John H. Rees Sr. and June Thomas Rees and the oldest brother of fourteen siblings. Howard graduated from Nanticoke High School in 1927 and earned a B.A. from Penn State University in 1932. During the height of the Great Depression, Howard worked as a social work “visitor” for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Department of Public Assistance where he met his wife, Mary Ruth Quinn. Shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor, Howard enlisted in the US Army. His distinguished military career in medical administration took him to the 204th Station Hospital in Sitka, Alaska and to Tinian in the Mariana Islands. He was on Tinian when the “Enola Gay” left that airstrip for its most historic journey.

Following the war, Howard served as a hospital administrator for the Veterans Administration in Pennsylvania, Massachusetts, New Jersey, Washington, DC and Newington, CT inspecting and managing the quality of care at hospitals throughout New England and the Mid-Atlantic. Pop Pop enjoyed thirty five years of retirement; caring for his beloved grandchildren, supporting his loved ones and traveling with his wife and family. Whether gazing at the Sistine Chapel ceiling (the inspiration for his first European adventure), to kissing the Blarney Stone or tracing family roots in Wales and England, Howard celebrated diverse cultures and experiences.

He exquisitely orchestrated his wife's home care services for years before her death on July 6, 2006.

Howard was able to remain at home thanks to the diligent and compassionate love, care and support of his family and devoted care givers Donna Sienkiewicz, Judy Thornton, Natalie Plude and, more recently, Patricia Rathmann and the staff of Masonicare Partners Home Health and Hospice. To those who had the privilege of knowing him, Howard was an incredible person, mentor, friend, father, grandfather, and husband.

Howard is survived by his sisters Shirley Fleet and Mildred Plummer, brother Ronald Rees, daughters Molly Rees Gavin and Joanne Rees Kaczor and her husband Robert Kaczor, grandchildren Megan Rees Gavin, Michael Rees Gavin and Sarah Kathleen Kaczor and legions of devoted friends and family. He was predeceased by his loving wife Mary Quinn Rees and ten brothers and sisters.

Calling hours will be Monday from 5-8 p.m at the Molloy Funeral Home, 906 Farmington Ave., West Hartford. The funeral will be Tuesday beginning with a funeral procession at 8:30 a.m. from the funeral home followed by a graveside service at 9:00 a.m. at Fairview Cemetery, West Hartford. A Memorial Service will follow the burial at 10:00 a.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 2080 Boulevard, West Hartford.

Memorial donations may be made to The Affinity Fund at Connecticut Community Care Inc., 43 Enterprise Drive, Bristol, Connecticut 06010. Online expressions of sympathy may be made at www.molloyfuneralhome.com

Cemetery Details

Fairview Cemetery West Hartford

200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Previous Events

Visitation

JUL 9. 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Molloy Funeral Home
906 Farmington Avenue
West Hartford, CT 06119
(860) 232-1322

Service

JUL 10. 9:00 AM (ET)

Fairview Cemetery, Graveside
200 Whitman Ave.
West Hartford, CT

Memorial Service

JUL 10. 10:00 AM (ET)

Westminster Presbyterian Church
2080 Boulevard
West Hartford, CT

Tribute Wall

AF

“ Audrey Reed Ford



Audrey Reed Ford - July 28, 2012 at 11:02 AM

JV

“ Jean Vera lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees



Jean Vera - July 13, 2012 at 02:22 PM

JV

You will live forever Super PopPop, I love you!

Jean Vera - July 13, 2012 at 02:38 PM



“ Carol Siddall lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees



Carol Siddall - July 09, 2012 at 04:52 PM

LM

“ *Liz May lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Liz May - July 09, 2012 at 03:33 PM

CV

“ *Cathy Vogel lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Cathy Vogel - July 09, 2012 at 03:19 PM

PW

“ *Paul Wasilewski lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Paul Wasilewski - July 09, 2012 at 02:43 PM

EB

“ *Elizabeth Bialas lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Elizabeth Bialas - July 09, 2012 at 02:23 PM

JD

“ *Judy DiTommaso lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Judy DiTommaso - July 09, 2012 at 12:50 PM

RD

“ *Rachel A. Dzienis lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Rachel A. Dzienis - July 09, 2012 at 12:00 PM

CL

“ *Molly, Megan, Michael, and Pop Pop - forever connected and interconnected through love and a life well lived and shared. Our hearts are with you today and always.*
Cheryl and Lynn

Cheryl and Lynn L'Heureux-Whitman - July 09, 2012 at 11:33 AM

CF

“ *Charlie Forish lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Charlie Forish - July 09, 2012 at 09:24 AM

DP

“ *Debra Paris lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Debra Paris - July 09, 2012 at 08:29 AM

UD

“ *"Life is a great big canvas, and you should throw all the paint on it you can."*
~Danny Kaye

Thank you, Mr. Rees for being such a creative artist. Your brilliant work shines on for many generations to come.

Ursula Daiber - July 09, 2012 at 08:14 AM

CA

“ *Charlotte Ayers-Zarella lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Charlotte Ayers-Zarella - July 09, 2012 at 08:10 AM

KM

“ *Kathleen McManamy lit a candle in memory of J. Howard Rees*



Kathleen McManamy - July 09, 2012 at 08:10 AM

DB

“ *Deborah Bradley lit a candle in memory of J.
Howard Rees*



Deborah Bradley - July 09, 2012 at 07:57 AM

DR

“ *Deb Reyes lit a candle in memory of J.
Howard Rees*



Deb Reyes - July 09, 2012 at 07:41 AM

JZ

My thoughts and prayers are with you today. Jan Zabara

Janice ZabaRA - July 09, 2012 at 11:19 AM