

NO PHOTO Pope, John Arthur

Sidney, NY

John Arthur Pope, of River Street in Sidney, passed away Thursday, April 6, 2006.

He was born with his twin sister, Mary Francis, on June 22, 1925, in Chicago, Ill., to Arthur and Jennifer M. Pope.

He was raised in the New York City area, and when he was 17, joined the United States Army. He spent 20 years of his life in the Army and served during World War II and the Korean War. He received over 40 medals including four Purple Hearts for injuries received in combat.

His career also allowed him to travel all over the world including Okinawa, Japan, the Phillipines and Italy. He became fluent in Italian, and the four years he spent in Trieste were some of the happiest of his whole life.

He retired from the military in 1963 and because of the GI Bill was able to attend New York University and Columbia University.

He then became the owner of the Maltese Falcon Store on Columbus Avenue in New York City, where he sold used furniture, clothing and antiques.

In 1970, he married Susan Bilton and in 1976, they purchased the house on River Street in Sidney. He spent the rest of his life trying to restore the inside of the house and had a real appreciation for Victorian architecture.

John spent years at auctions, flea markets and antiques stores, buying and selling antiques and collectibles. He had a great love of history, was a fanatic about trains, had a passion for growing flowers all over his yard, loved reading books and magazines and spent his last hours on the Earth listening to his favorite jazz songs.

John will always be remembered for his outgoing personality and the way he always stood up for what he believed was right. He never thought twice about helping a friend in need and always offered his advice and a shoulder to cry on. He had a tremendous spirit and a unique sense of humor that could make an entire room full of people listen to his every word.

John always believed in volunteering and donating to charities and was a member of the National Democratic Committee, the Sierra Club, WSKG PBS station in Binghamton, the National Humane Society, the National Model Railroaders Association, the Leatherstocking Railway Society, the Veterans Of Foreign Wars, the 96th Infantry Division, the Loyal Order of the Purple Heart and his beloved Disabled American Veterans Post in Oneonta.

John was predeceased by his parents; his sisters, Jean and Irene Pope; and his loving wife, Susan Bilton Pope.

He leaves behind his son, John and Barbara Pope; his daughter, Christina and Rob Bargher; and his grandchildren, Rebecca, Frank, Gerald and Elizabeth; along with several great-grandchildren. John also leaves behind several incredible friends who did so many things to fill his life with laughter and love.

The family extends their sincere appreciation to all of the people who stood by John during sickness and health. Thank you to those who were lifelong true friends and even those who met him more recently but have done all they could to fill his days with joy and happiness. May the memories that you have shared

never be far from your hearts.

Special thanks to the Sidney Fire Department for its incredible care during all of his emergencies and to the Sidney Police Department, Troop C and attorney Frederick Neroni for making sure that John's wishes are being honored, even in death.

A memorial service will be scheduled in Sidney to honor John's memory at a later date.

He will be interred in the Arlington National Cemetery with full military honors at a later date.

Memorial contributions can be made in his name to the DAV Oneonta Chapter No. 200, PO Box 165, Oneonta, NY 13820.

Arrangements are under the care of the Joyce Funeral Home, Unadilla, and the family would like to thank them for their wonderful friendship to John while he was alive.