

## Remember Them Forever

Name: Walter Lakusta

Birth: 29 Feb 1920  
Manhattan, New York, New York

Death: 31 January 1999  
Lewisville, Denton, Texas

Cemetery: Flower Mound Presbyterian Cemetery

Cemetery Location: 1501 Flower Mound Road,  
Flower Mound, 75028  
Denton County, Texas, USA

Section: East – Middle Third

Plot GPS: 33.01306, -97.05194

Family: Father – John Lakusta, Mother – Sophie Bulba,  
Spouse – Mildred “Millie” Urusky, Children – Pat, Bobbie, Susan, Mike

Military: Enlisted in New York National Guard Service 11 May 1938, Company F, 71<sup>st</sup> Infantry.  
Left 18 June 1941 to accept commission as US Army Second Lieutenant.  
WWII - Europe  
Captain, 159<sup>th</sup> Infantry, 7<sup>th</sup> Division  
Retired as Colonel after 27 years of service

According to "Order of Battle: US Army World War II" by Shelby Stanton, the 159th was relieved from the 7th Infantry Division on 23 August 1943 and assigned to the Alaskan Department, and it departed Attu on 9 August 1944. Arriving at the Seattle Port of Embarkation eleven days later, it was transferred to Camp Swift, Texas on 28 August 1944. It moved to Camp Callan, California, on 20 December 1944 before returning to Camp Swift on 28 January 1945. The regiment staged at Camp Kilmer, New Jersey on 27 February 1945 before departing from the New York Port of Embarkation on 7 March 1945. It arrived in France eleven days later and was attached to the [106th Infantry Division](#) to replace the two lost regiments the division lost during the [Battle of The Bulge](#). As part of the 106th, it entered Germany on 25 April 1945. On 4 November 1945 it returned to the New York Port of Embarkation and was inactivated at Camp Shanks, New York on that same date.

IndianaMilitary.org has several memorandums and after-action reports written by Lakusta detailing the 159<sup>th</sup>'s work with prisoners of war in Germany in May 1945.

Civilian: Graduate of Columbia University. Chemical engineer at American Cyanamid for 37 years. Retired as senior vice president of manufacturing with Arizona Chemical Company. Founded and served as commander of the Catholic War Veterans at St. George's Roman Catholic Church in New York City.

Sources: FindaGrave.com, Mulkey Mason Funeral Home obituary, Ancestry.com, IndianaMilitary.org, Wikipedia.

Author Information:

Aug 2024

Betsy Jones BetsyJ99@gmail.com

Organization Represented: The Flower Mound Chapter, NSDAR

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