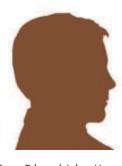
BOZEK



A man who exemplified title "The Great Generation," died on July 2023, at the age of 98. was preceded in death by love of his life, his wife of Greatest July 16, f 98. He his Clara vears Bozek.

John was born on August 16, 1924, in Detroit, Michigan. His parents, John and Sophie, had emigrated from Poland at the turn-of-the-century. John was the youngest of five children Chet, Leo, sister

the turn-of-the-century. John was the youngest of five children Chet, Leo, siter Fran, Ed, and John. He grew uplidiren Chet, Leo, siter Great Depression, but John Ilked to recall a childhood of friend and play, the knew that there were many neighbors struggling, but his father's Steady work as a salt miner afforded the family a modest life without significant want. By the time Will came John was in high school and enjoying carefree teenager years. He particularly enjoyed going to the movies, with double features being his favorite. Right up to the week of his death. John and some friends went to enlist for military service. They were turned away to complete high school. Not long after graduation, John reported for duty, requesting an assignment in the US Army Alf Forces, the predecessor to today's Alf Force. John first completed the Aviation Cadet Program by earning his avaigator rating, and then qualified in the 8-24 "Liberator" bomber. When they were qualified, John and his crew boarded at roop ship with no idea where they were headed, Only after they were away from shore was it revealed to the men that they were asiling to talty. Assigned to the 45th Born of Group of the 15th Air Force, John was stationed in Manduria, in southeast tally, As a navigator and occasional bombardier, John flew 50 missions in 8-24 Liberator" in Suranger and Austria, Hungary and the Balkans. He survived flak, enemy fighters, bone-chilling cold, and even near misses with friendly aircraft. His final mission was in April, 1945, training for redeployment when the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. John turned 21 two days after the surrender of Japan and its allies. His military career also included service as an intelligence Officer in the Michigan Air National Guard's 27th Fighter Group and as a liaison officer for the US Air Force Academy. He retired as a lieutenant Colone in 1974. Before deploying to Italy, John was on leave when he met abautiful young lady in a soldier's canteen. There was an immediate connection

good care of him and Clara in their last years. John and Clara loved them all.

The family requests that, in lieu of flowers, donations be made to a local nonprofit that John supported, The Veterans Breakfast Club, to honor the selfless spirit of service to the nation that John exemplified. Donations are accepted through the website veteransbreakfastclub.org or at 200 Magnolia Place, Pittsburgh, PA 15228. Visitation will be held at JOHN F. SLATER FUNERAL HOME, 412-881-4100, 4201 Brownsville Road, Brentwood, PA 15227 from 4:00 to 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, July 23, 2023. A blessing service will be held at the same location at 10:30 a.m. on July 24, 2023, with interment to follow at the National Cemetery of the Alleghenies. Please send condolences to www.johnfslater.com