



Colonel Volney Higdon Rattan  
OFFPA Order No. 4528--VA No. 084 and  
NC No. 047

It is with much sadness that the Virginia Society reports the passing of our fellow Lifetime OFPA Associate and friend, Colonel Volney Higdon Rattan Retired, United States Army. Col Rattan passed on January 1, 2019.

He was born at Dallas, Texas on March 19, 1916 and was 102 years old at his death. He attended Oklahoma A&M College; his B.A. from George Washington University; and his M.S. in Business Ed. from the U. of Richmond, Virginia. His military career began in 1941 after being inducted into the United States Army where he attended OCS and was commissioned a 2nd Lt. in the Medical Administrative Corps. He served honorably in WWII, as did his wife Frances, who was a US Army Surgical Nurse.

Col. Rattan's distinguished military career involved many locations around the globe including France, Germany, Japan, Taiwan, Greece, Panama, and Turkey. His assignments included the Commanding Officer, U.S.A. Medical Depot, Croix Chapeau, France,

and Deputy Director Medical Material Procurement, Department of Defense Personnel Support Center, in Philadelphia, PA. During his military career, Col. Rattan earned no less than seven (7) awards including the **Bronze Star**.

While serving in France during World War II as the Administrative Officer for the 108<sup>th</sup> General Hospital, he met the love of his life and future wife, Frances A. Eddy (she passed in 2015). They were married in July 1945 in Marseilles, France and together they served on the ship that was preparing to invade Japan. However just a month after their marriage, the armistice ending World War II was signed on 14 August 1945.

After his retirement from the military in 1971, his public service continued as he accepted active roles in various organizations: the Silver Caduceus Association, Sons of the American Revolution, Huguenot Society of Virginia--the Colonial Capital Branch, Association for Preservation of Virginia Antiquities, American Philatelic Society, and the Williamsburg Stamp Society (past President).

Volney Higdon Rattan's distinguished heritage, as a descendant of Founder Richard Higdon and Revolutionary War Patriot John Higdon, earned his admittance as an associate in The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, aptly considered the most exclusive society in the United States.

Colonel Rattan served The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America with distinction as its Deputy Secretary General (1990-92), Secretary General (1992-96), and Deputy Governor General (1996-98), and was responsible for the OFPA publication **Register of Lineages of Associates 1993-2000, Volume 5, Corrections, Additions, and Supplements and No. 4968 thru 5383; and**

***Index, 2002.*** As a result of his commitment, then Gov. General Alden Atwood remarked: "This volume is the result of the dedicated work of Volney H. Rattan of Virginia [Society]. It was a tremendous undertaking and is the product of countless hours of compiling the data necessary to complete the volume, including an *eight thousand* [8,000] name index. There are few men who would devote the patience and energy necessary to accomplish this daunting task, and the Order is most fortunate to have him." As a result of his steadfast commitment and excellence, he was the recipient of the highest award conferred by the Order on one of its associates, the coveted **Distinguished Service Award.**

Colonel Rattan distinguished himself before his Country, his family, and in various organizations. In so doing he embodies the Order's motto of "***Steadfast for God and Country.***" And, as a result of his distinguished military career and his contributions to The Order of the Founders and Patriots of America, the 122<sup>nd</sup> General Court (May 2018 at Dearborn, Michigan) was dedicated in honor of Colonel Volney H. Rattan.

He leaves behind two sons and their families, Charles T. and Richard V. along with grandson (Richard T.); all are current VA Society OFPA Associates. His family states: "He was a good man, dedicated soldier, superb husband to his wife Frances, and just the *greatest* Dad there ever was. We will love him always."

Colonel Volney Higdon Rattan will be honored with a full military funeral ceremony at Arlington National Ceremony--Arlington, VA at a future date.

Please keep the Rattan family in your thoughts and prayers.