



# John Simon Loisel

MAY 21, 1920 - JAN 20, 2010



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# John Simon Loisel

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**H**e was preceded in death by his son, John Loisel, Jr. He is survived by his wife, Rae Loisel; daughter, Susan Bryan and her husband Robert E.; three grandchildren: Eric Loisel, Anne Mooney, and Christopher Loisel; four great-grandchildren Elise and John Patrick Mooney, and Keira and Noah Loisel. John S. Loisel: Plano high physics teacher, WWII fighter pilot 06:50 AM CST on Tuesday, January 26, 2010 By JOE SIMNACHER / The Dallas Morning News John S. Loisel might have been better-known for his 14 years as a Plano Senior High School physics teacher than for downing 11 enemy aircraft as a World War II fighter pilot. Not one to brag about his accomplishments, Col. Loisel rarely allowed much public attention. Once, in 2007, the double ace fighter pilot was publicly honored for his heroics when he served as grand marshal of the Dallas Veterans Day Parade. On Friday, at his 1 p.m. graveside service at Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, Col. Loisel will be honored with a flyby of F-16 fighter planes. Col. Loisel, 89, died Wednesday of natural causes at Plano Specialty Hospital. His funeral will be at 10:30 a.m. Friday at St. Mark the Evangelist Catholic Church in Plano. Reserved and respectful, the retired Air Force colonel rarely brought up his World War II service, said his daughter, Susan Bryan of Emory, Texas. "Did he talk about it? With the other aces, when they were drinking," she said. "He didn't brag about it much; it was his job." Col. Loisel was born May 21, 1920, in Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, and grew up in Norfolk, Neb., where he graduated from high school. He attended the University of Nebraska until entering a government civilian pilot-training program. He was commissioned a second lieutenant in the Army Air Forces and was aboard a ship bound for the Philippines when Pearl Harbor was attacked. He was thrust into combat flying a P-39. Because of his performance piloting 82 combat missions, he was selected to be a P-38 Lightning pilot. By October 1943, he was recognized as an ace for downing his fourth and fifth Japanese fighters, this time in one encounter. Col. Loisel did tell his



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family some details of combat, especially the chaos immediately after a plane is shot down. “You don’t realize that when you shoot another plane down – man-to-man – there is debris all over the place,” his daughter said. “There is smoke and fire, and you can barely see. There’s a whole set of things that occur that you don’t see in the movies.” By war’s end, Col. Loisel had flown 875 combat hours and been awarded the Silver Star, the Distinguished Flying Cross with 3 Oak Leaf Clusters and the Air Medal with 9 Oak Leaf Clusters. After the war, Col. Loisel received his bachelor’s degree from the University of Nebraska. He was commissioned into the Air Force and returned to combat during the Korean War as commander of the 474th fighter-bomber wing, leading the group on 22 missions as an F-84-G fighter pilot. His military career included tours at the Pentagon and the Air Force Pacific headquarters as well as a base in Michigan. When he retired from the Air Force in 1970, he had more than 5,500 flight hours. Col. Loisel resumed his education and received a master’s degree in education from what is now the University of North Texas. He became a Plano physics teacher. “He just enjoyed teaching very much, and physics is natural for a pilot,” his daughter said. In addition to his daughter, Col. Loisel is survived by his wife, Rachel Loisel of Richardson; two sisters, Mary Margaret Pappaf of Lincoln, Neb., and Anne Schueth of DeLand, Fla.; three grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren.



## Tribute Wall

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CT

**Curtis F. Tinker, Jr** posted:

I was priviledge to serve under Col. John Loisel in WWII. My condolences to the family, we will miss him!

August 24 at 4:27 AM

DH

**David Hoxie** posted:

I only got to meet Col. Loisel once at a 475th reunion in Ontario, CA. several years ago. I found him to be a humble hero of WWII. A true American hero, this nation has lost so many in these past few years. May your loss be stemmed from having many cherished memories of him.

January 19 at 7:00 PM



## **Memories only last if you share them**

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