

COL James L Centner (posthumous)
Class of 1942
Enshrined 2018

Jim's career spanned 30 years in the Active and Reserve Force with assignments from Platoon Leader to Commandant of the 83rd Reserve Command CGSC School.

While as student at Xavier, Jim was the Editor of the Xavier University News, the university's weekly campus newspaper. Commissioned from Xavier University ROTC at age 19 in 1942, Jim served in the 98 Infantry Division as Field Artillery Battery Commander for the defense of Hawaii during World War II and was slated as a participant in Operation Olympic, scheduled for 1 November 1945 as one of two planned invasions of Japan. With the Japanese surrender, Jim served as a special agent for General MacArthur commanding a counter-intelligence detachment in Japan during the first year of the occupation. He was discharged from Active Duty as a Major in 1946 and remained in the Reserves, retiring as Commandant of the 83rd Army Reserve Command, CGSC School, Cincinnati, Ohio, at the rank of Colonel in 1972. His awards and decorations included the Army Commendation Medal with oak leaf cluster, Pacific Campaign Medal, and Occupation of Japan Medal. In 2006, he published Codename: Magpie: The Final Nazi Espionage Mission Against the U.S. in WW II.

He was a member of Xavier's first MBA class in 1954 and joined the faculty as an adjunct. He taught for over twenty-five years and completed his teaching career as an Adjunct Professor of Management. He authored a textbook of Management-Labor Case Studies and wrote many articles for professional journals covering the management and labor fields.

He volunteered as Scout Master at Summit Country Day School 1959-1961.

He had a 50-year career in the automotive modifications industry employed as president of several custom car manufacturers, specializing in armored limousines for heads of state, other high ranking government officials, dignitaries and public figures. He visited over ninety countries in the process, met five heads of state and became "the clearing house for information on presidential limousines" according to Automotive News magazine.

Active in the worldwide management field, he served as President of the International Society for the Advancement of Management, was on the Board of Trustees of the American Management Association and was one of the thirteen Fellows of the International Academy of Management in Geneva.

He was married for 70 years to the Naomi (nee Schlosser) Centner who resides in Cincinnati. Jim passed away June 3rd, 2017.