

AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



Lieutenant Eugene J. LaVigne

Eugene LaVigne is the son of Mrs. Katherine P. LaVigne of 308 West Bluff Street in Marquette. Following high school, he attended Northern Michigan College of Education from 1933 to 1936 and was a member of the Theta Omicron Rho fraternity.

He joined the Army Air Force at Jefferson Barracks in Missouri on February 18, 1941. He was graduated from Army Air Forces schools including the A.C.A.M. School at Chanute Field, Illinois, Primary at Camden, South Carolina, Basic at Cochran Field, Georgia, Advanced at Marianna, Florida and O.T.V. at Sarasota, Florida.

As a pilot, he served with the Eleventh Army Air Force in the Aleutians flying 180 missions in P-38s and P-40s. Forty-four missions were combat and one was bombing issue. For the latter, he was issued a membership card in the "I Bombed Japan Club". This organization was composed of Eleventh Army Air Force personnel who had bombed Japanese positions in their home territory in the Kurile Island chain. LaVigne obtained membership because of participation in a raid over Matsuma Island, target of a stepped-up aerial drive against the Kuriles from the Aleutians.

Awards received included the Asiatic Pacific Ribbon and the American Defense Ribbon.

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Following his duty in the Pacific, he returned to the lower "48" and was stationed at the Army Air Field in Independence, Kansas.

TJ Mudge, May 2004