

# AVIATION WALL OF HONOR



## **Lieutenant Martin R. Niemi Killed in Action**

Martin R. Niemi, son of Mr. and Mrs. Victor Niemi, was born in Marquette, Michigan on August 20, 1919. He graduated from John D. Pierce High School and attended Northern Michigan College of Education for three years before enlisting in the Air Corps on April 2, 1942.

He received training at Santa Ana, California and at Albuquerque, New Mexico where he was commissioned on May 29, 1943. He married Ms. Doris Smith of Albuquerque on June 1, 1943.

On June 22, he left the United States for a base in Australia. On October 21, 1943 he was killed on a bombing mission in the Southwest Pacific according to a message from the War Department to Lieutenant Niemi's wife in Albuquerque. The details of the plane crash were unknown.

A military memorial service was held in the Finnish Evangelical Lutheran National Church on Bluff Street on December 5, 1943. Reverend A. L. Maki, pastor of the church, arranged the service with cooperation of the American Legion and other war veteran's organizations and their auxiliaries. The procession from church parlors was headed by the colors and an honor guard of U.S. Coast Guardsmen.

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Reverend Mr. Maki conducted the service in Finnish and English followed by a solo by Ms. Elvi Hakala. Taps were sounded in the sacristy and the colors retired by the American Legion.

TJ Mudge, May 2004