

## **World War II Hero**

### **John S. Ripandelli (ACAS 1966) 1918-2018**

John Ripandelli died at his home in Tallahassee, Florida, on June 30, 2018, after a brief illness. He was 99 years old. After graduating from Columbia University in 1940, he was drafted in 1942 and spent two years at infantry training school in Spartanburg, South Carolina. He married Eleanor Richards in North Carolina in 1943 and they spent 54 years together.

During WWII, he was a first lieutenant combat engineer for reconnaissance for the 284th Engineer Combat Battalion. During the Rhineland Campaign, he participated in the [battle of the Remagen Bridge](#), allowing the first U.S. Army soldiers to cross into Germany. For his participation in the [Battle of the Bulge](#), he received the French Legion of Honor medal (Chevalier). He was also portrayed as the character "John" in the book by Mikel Shilling, *Silent Heroes*, a compilation of the war experiences of the soldiers in Ripandelli's battalion. In 1953 he left Asheville, North Carolina, to become the state of Florida's chief actuary and insurance examiner. He resigned in September 1959 to be an independent actuarial consultant and continued until the age of 92. He enjoyed solving crossword and math problems and playing piano. Ripandelli was born in New York City on October 1, 1918, to Ida Gimma and Francesco P. Ripandelli, who was knighted by the Italian monarchy for technological innovation in the Italian banking system. He is survived by three daughters: Carol Ripandelli, Diane Ripandelli and Joan (Wayne) Sizemore; and two grandchildren.