

THE BATTLE OF MIDWAY ROUNDTABLE

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT
TO THE NEWSLETTER
FOR
JUNE 2025

COL. JOHN F. MINICLIER, USMC
1921 - 2025



FROM THE FIRST TO THE LAST

With deep regret, we announce the passing on 24 May 2025 of Col. John Miniclier, USMC- Retired, at the age of 103 years and 11 months. John had been a Roundtable stalwart for more than 20 years, having been brought aboard with several other Marines by fellow Midway vet Ed Fox around 2003. During that time he was a frequent contributor to the Roundtable Forum on preparations for the defense of Midway and his experience on the atoll during the Japanese air raid.

John was also a key participant in Midway commemorations, whether local or on Midway itself. He generously responded to frequent requests for interviews from students and others researching the BOM, and you can find him in a multitude of videos on Youtube and elsewhere.

John enlisted in the Marine Corps in August 1940 and served continuously for 35 years. After Midway he had a number of training assignments as he advanced through the ranks, including a college program to prepare for commission as an officer. He became a 2nd lieutenant in April 1946 and advanced to colonel in 1968.



John will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery with the usual honors. Details have not been announced at this time, but anyone who would like to be informed can email the Roundtable at midwayroundtable@gmail.com, and we'll pass the word when we get it.

You'll find much more about John at Midway in our archives and elsewhere with an Internet search. For starters we can recommend our [December 2019 issue](#) (scroll down to "Eyewitness to the Attack on Midway Island June 1942"). There are other suggested references shown below with some of the photos.

75 Battle of Midway veterans participating with us on the Roundtable, from Howard Ady, Jr. in the 1990s to Col. John Miniclier in our 28th year—the first to the last. We miss them all, but they'll always be with us as long as they're not forgotten.

Sincere thanks to John's daughter Peggy Miniclier for keeping us advised about her dad for the past couple of years, and for providing much of the information included in this report. Unless otherwise stated, the photos here are also credited to Peggy.

Note: above photo is from our [January 2022 newsletter](#)
(scroll down to "Day of Infamy on Midway")



Boot camp, 1940: Pvt Miniclier, front row, 2nd from left

June 1942: at the Sand Island power house with CDR John Ford (center). PFC Miniclier is to his left. Another future Roundtable member, PFC Don Drake is in the rear at the left.

(photo: Friends of Midway Atoll)





**1945: John and his new wife, Marine Corporal Margaret “Peg” Creel
(Orlando Sentinel photo)**



**John at the Sand Island power house, 70th BOM anniversary, 2012
(Duluth MN Tribune photo)**



**Promotion to colonel, 1968,
with President Johnson**

**John demonstrates his doughboy-style
Midway helmet during filming of one of
the many videos that featured him.
“Don’t count on it too much,” he says.**





Two Midway Marines – John with Ed Fox on Midway for the 75th anniversary, June 2017 – from our [September 2022 newsletter](#)



John in Hawaii with BOM authors Craig Symonds (left) and Jon Parshall, 2017



John, age 100, 2021
(Orlando Sentinel photo)

Fair winds and following seas, Sir, and thank you for your service!

