



Millerton American Legion Post 178
Millerton NY

Veterans Day Tribute



Charles Sherman Cline

By Sean Klay, Post Historian

For the last decade, the Millerton Post of the American Legion has conducted a *Killed in Action Tribute* to remember those who gave the ultimate sacrifice during a time of war from our community. Last year we expanded upon this idea and started a Veterans Day Tribute, to recognize the service of those who served and were fortunate enough to return home.

This year (2018), we would like to recognize the service of Charles Sherman Cline, a veteran of not one, but two world wars.

Charles Sherman Cline was born December 23, 1891 in Millerton NY to Charles Albert Cline and Cornelia F. Sherman. Their home was on Park Street here in Millerton. His father was the director of the Millerton Bank for 50 years and served as Town Supervisor in the early 1900's.

Charles enlisted as a Private into the US Army on May 12, 1917 and enrolled into the School of Military Aeronautics at Cornell University as part of the Enlisted Reserve Corps on August 17, 1917 and promoted to Private First Class. Two months later in October he completed his training and shipped off to France where he was assigned to the 3rd Aviation Instruction Center.

On May 30, 1918 while in France he was granted an honorable Discharge, so he could accept a commission as a 2nd Lieutenant and a pilot in the Army's new Aviation Corps.

By the time of the Armistice Charles found himself a Captain and a recipient of both the Purple Heart and the French Conspicuous Service Medal for his heroic activities in France.

Following the War, Captain Charles S. Cline remained in the newly organized U.S. Army Air Corps Reserves. On June 22, 1922 he married Feda Ludlam. The following year in 1923 their only son Robert was born. Charles rose steadily in the ranks achieving the rank of Lieutenant Colonel by the time of his recall to Active Duty in early 1942. Lieutenant Colonel Cline was assigned to the Eighth Air Forces Fighter Command in England, eventually commanding one of the many American Air Bases there.

Following this Second World War, he returned to the Reserves as a full Colonel and returned to residing in Poughkeepsie, NY. He became one of the "plank-owners" of the newly created United States Air Force in 1948, and ultimately retired from the Air Force in 1952.



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He passed away on April 22, 1954 at 62 years of age, and is buried in Millerton's Irondale Cemetery.