

Christ Episcopal Church Cemetery Inventory

State and Water Streets, Dover DE 19903

Lot Number: 97 Space: I

Find A Grave # 24567872

Name: **Durney, George Patrick**

Birth date: July 14, 1923 Death date: April 21, 1998 Burial Date: May 28, 1998 Age: 74
b. Union Hill, NJ

Spouse: Lucy Jane *Tremayne* Durney (1928-2008) ; (Georgeann Emily Munford – 1st wife? m. 12.8.1945)

Children: Douglas Durney; Rebecca *Durney* Cronin

Parents: Frank Patrick Durney and Mary B *Bolan* Durney (stepfather Edward Biter)

Siblings: Edward Biter; Cleon J. Biter; Isabel *Durney* Gonya

Residence: Dover, DE

Cause of death/Burial/Obituary: Boating accident; see next page

Service/occupation information: US Army Air Corps, WW II, PH, POW, AM/ Known as the father of the Apollo space suit made at ILC in Dover, DE/ several NASA awards

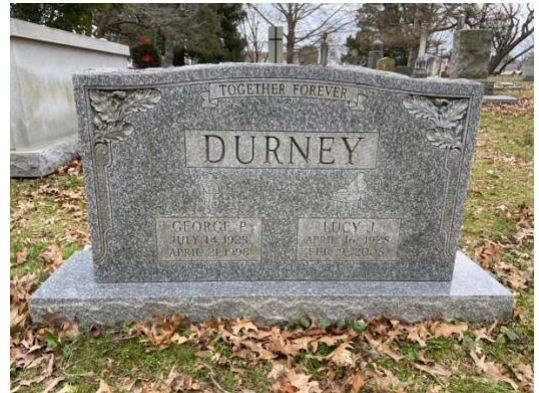
Officiate: Officiate: Rev. Gregory Howe

Lot Owner: Mrs. Lucy Durney – H, I, J

Marker: Shared with spouse

Inscription:

	Together Forever DURNEY	
<i>Image - astronaut suit</i>		<i>Image - grand piano</i>
George P.		Lucy J
July 14, 1923		April 16, 1928
April 21, 1998		Feb 9, 2008



Veteran's footstone:

+
George P. Durney
Flt 0 US Army Air Corps
World War II
July 14, 1923 April 21, 1998
PH POW AM



DIMENSIONS: H 32" x W 54" x D 13"
Footstone: H 0" x W 24" x D 12"

STYLE: headstone + veteran's footstone

No repairs needed

Inventory date: April 29, 2020 Recorder: Ellen Richardson

Husband of Lucy J. Tremayne Durney.

George served as a Flight Officer in the Army Air Corps during World War II.

He was a Prisoner of War and was decorated with an Air Medal and Purple Heart.

The News Journal, Wilmington, DE, Thursday, April 23, 1998

The News Journal, Wilmington, DE
Wednesday, April 22, 1998

Man, 74, dies in boat mishap

Boat capsized,
Dover police say

By **TERRI SANGINITI**
Staff reporter

A 74-year-old man, who was fishing with his brother, died Tuesday in a boating accident on Dover's Silver Lake, police said.

George Durney of the 100 block of Silver Lake Drive, was pronounced dead at Kent General Hospital at 4:46 p.m., an hour after the accident.

The state medical examiner's office is investigating.

Dover police spokesman Capt. Bob Mays said Durney and his brother, Edward Bittner, were fishing in a boat under the Silver Lake bridge at North State Street about 3:45 p.m. when Durney leaned over the side, fell out and the boat capsized.

"Both men went into the water and the brother got the victim and swam to the edge of the lake with him," Mays said. Bittner helped his brother to the edge, nearly out of the water.

But when Bittner swam back to retrieve the capsized boat, his brother called out to him before slipping back under water again.

"The brother went back and pulled Durney back out before going for help," Mays said. By then he realized his brother was in trouble and probably having a heart attack.

Durney was treated on the scene by Kent County paramedics who were unable to revive him.

"The victim was under a doctor's care for heart problems," said Mays.

Robbins Hose Company of Dover fire Chief Carleton E. Carey Jr. said firefighters in a boat went out in the lake and retrieved the brothers' small, olive-green boat with a small electric motor on it.

NewsJ.Wed.Apr.
22, 1998

News J. Thu. Apr 23, 1998

DURNEY SERVICE: A service for **George P. Durney**, the father of the space suit, will be at 1 p.m. Saturday at Christ Episcopal Church, State and Water streets, Dover, where friends may call from 6 to 9 p.m. Friday. Burial will be in the church cemetery.

Mr. Durney, 74, of **Dover**, died Tuesday in a boating accident while fishing on Silver Lake with his brother, Edward D. Biter Jr. of Dover, Dover police said.

He worked at ILC Dover, for 36 years, and was the key designer of the Apollo space suits, and was known as the father of the space suit, an ILC Dover spokesman said Wednesday.

He was awarded NASA's prestigious Silver Snoopy Award in 1993 in recognition for his outstanding accomplishments and the NASA Public Service Award in 1994 for excellent contributions to NASA missions.

Mr. Durney became product manager of the Inflatable Products Division of ILC Dover, and later chief engineer before retiring in 1993. In 1997, ILC Dover named its annual award for excellence the George P. Durney Pride Award in his honor.

A World War II Army Air Corps veteran, he was a pilot of P-39 fighters and B-17 bombers over Europe. He was shot down over Austria in 1944 and was a prisoner of

war for 14 months. He was awarded several medals, including the Purple Heart.

Mr. Durney was a member of Christ Episcopal Church, Dover, and a 1941 graduate of Dover High School.

Survivors: wife of 40 years, Lucy Durney; son, Douglas of Dover; daughter, Rebecca Cronin of Townsend; another brother, Cleon J. Biter of Colorado; sister, Isabel Gonya of Pennsylvania; four grandchildren.

Contributions: George P. Durney Memorial Fund at Christ Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 1374, Dover 19903.

Delaware Aviation Hall of Fame



George P. Durney
(1923-1998)

“The Father of the Space Suit”

George P. Durney (1923-1998) left his footprints not only in the sands of earth but on the moon as well, for he was "The Father of the Space Suit."

George learned to fly as a teenager in Dover and joined the Air Corps at the outbreak of World War II. At first he ferried airplanes to England, then he joined a fighter group flying P-39 Aircobras and later a bomb group operating B-17s. After 480 combat hours, he was shot down over Austria. He and his crew survived but spent 14 months as POWs. Besides the Purple Heart, George earned the Air Medal with three Oak Leaf Clusters and Silver Star.

After the war, he crop-dusted in California, where he became concerned over exposure to chemicals. He entered UCLA, taking courses in materials and design with the aim of creating protective flight suits. In 1962, Playtex (now ILC Industries) of Dover recruited him as Project Engineer for the Apollo Suit Program. The garments his group created beat out two other high-profile competitors for the NASA contract.

George has been widely decorated for his achievements. One of the most cherished of recognitions is ILC's annual George P. Durney Pride Award, given to an outstanding employee.

George is survived by his wife, the former Lucy Jane Tremayne of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and two children. Lucy Jane lives in Dover.

Richard C. Pulling, Sr. of Dover submitted the nomination.