



**Peter P. Ducosky, Government**

Video  
highlights of  
Inductee's  
Profile



Peter P. Ducosky was the first born son of Polish immigrant farmers, in Pennsylvania, in 1892. He served our country in the Merchant Marines and in the US Army. After he married, Peter and his beloved wife Stella, moved to Cleveland, Ohio where he began a 32 year career as a pipefitter with the New York Central Railroad in the Collinwood Yards. Peter was one of the founders, and first Charter Member, of the American Legion Post 999 located on East 152nd Street. Peter, and his wife, were active members of the American Legion throughout their lives. Post 999 was proud of its support of our troops during WWII, and subsequently, support for European children after the war. Under Peter's leadership, Post 999 surpassed all others in northeastern Ohio for the collection of records for troops, and in the early 50's, toys for the nationwide American Legion "Tide of Toys" drive.

In 1932, Peter, and four others with Post 999 and New York Central Railroad, built the 999 replica locomotive that the Collinwood Alumni Association has resurrected as a visible reminder of the historical spirit of the Collinwood High School "Railroaders". The original "999" is historically significant as the first engine to have exceeded 100 miles per hour; it was also known as the "Queen of Speed" and pulled the Empire Express, New York Central's flagship passenger train. The Legion's "999" was constructed after hours at the Collinwood Yards. This miniature locomotive served Collinwood well – not only for the American Legion, but also as good advertisement for the New York Central Railroad. The "999" appeared in many parades in Cleveland, and across the country. The fact that the "999" is in our service today, is a testament to the excellence of its construction, as led by Peter. In the 1940's Peter oversaw construction of an even larger engine for the Forty and Eight. The fate of this larger engine is unknown.

Peter was also a member and leader of the local Forty and Eight Chapter, Voiture 11, a charitable honor organization of US Veterans. The Forty and Eight's purpose is to uphold and defend the United States Constitution to promote the wellbeing of veterans and their widows and orphans, and to actively participate in selected charitable endeavors including programs to promote child welfare and nurses training. These were all worthwhile activities that Peter participated in to the benefit of his community.

Peter passed away in 1974, a man proud of his service to our country, proud of his charitable endeavors in our community and proud of his charitable work with the American Legion and the Forty and Eight. To honor that service, he went to his eternal rest proudly wearing his uniform.