

## 'Dugie' Doyle spent his life serving others



19 HOURS AGO - BY EMILY NITCHER / LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

**John R. "Dugie" Doyle helped people mend their lives.**

**"He was the first one to reach out when somebody was in trouble," said W. Don Nelson, who first met Doyle during the 1970 gubernatorial campaign.**

**Doyle, who died Thursday, used a life rich with experiences to help others.**

**His son, Tim Doyle, said Saturday he may never know how many people his father helped.**

**At 20, Doyle was shot down by enemy fire during World War II.**

**At 30, he ran for Lancaster County attorney, the lone Democrat in the 1954 race who wanted to**

**hire a female deputy if elected. He lost to Elmer M. Scheele.**

**He knew something about performing from both his brother and sister. His brother, John Doyle, played Bosley in the popular TV series "Charlie's Angels." His sister, Mary M. Doyle-McQuiggan, was a Broadway actress.**

**And he knew something about alcoholism, fighting the disease himself and then dedicating his life to help others conquer it, becoming a national leader in alcoholic rehabilitation.**

**He was a board member of the Alcoholism Council of Nebraska, a one-time president of the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and served on the board of the National Council on Alcoholism from 1981-83. As chairman of the national group, Doyle often would testify before Congress on alcoholism legislation.**

**After listening to Doyle's testimony, West Virginia Rep. Cleve Benedict said, "Mr. Doyle, one volunteer like yourself is worth 10,000 persons on the federal payroll."**

**The council's work was important in securing public recognition that alcoholism was a disease and not a character flaw, Tim Doyle said.**

**Even last week, Nelson said Doyle was helping a wife whose husband was suffering from**

alcoholism.

Born in Lincoln on Sept. 27, 1924, Doyle attended Lincoln High School and graduated from Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie du Chien, Wis., where he was a tailback on the football team.

He attended Yale University, but soon found himself in the Navy based on the U.S.S. Ticonderoga and flying bombers in the Pacific during World War II.

Shot down by enemy fire, Doyle was found by natives on Luzon, an island 70 miles north of Manila, where he lived for months before being rescued.

Doyle was one of the genuine World War II heroes from Lincoln, Nelson said.

But he was a humble man who didn't talk about the war until later in life, Tim Doyle said.

His heroism was rewarded in 1945 with the Navy Cross.

"With his bomber damaged by enemy fire and blazing furiously as he initiated his dive, Ensign Doyle resolutely continued his bold run ... plunging through an intense barrage of anti-aircraft shells to release a deadly bomb at a perilous altitude ... scoring a destructive hit on the hostile warship," his citation read.

After the war he returned to Yale in 1945, where he met a future president. Doyle never had a class with George H.W. Bush, but the acquaintances kept in touch over the years despite differing political views.

When Doyle didn't show up to a Bush rally in Lincoln, the president responded by sending a note to Doyle, telling him he was chicken.

Doyle, who obtained his law degree from the University of Denver, volunteered to help fellow attorneys, clients and others with alcohol-related problems.

"He set the example of appreciating what life had to offer and especially appreciating people," Tim said. "I've not seen anybody in life that sincerely enjoyed the company of other people as much as my dad."

"And a kinder, more gentle soul you'll never find," Nelson said.

Doyle is survived by his wife, Barbara, and sons Tim of Lincoln and Louis of Pacific Palisades, Calif.

## **Doyle, John Remine "Dugie"**

13 HOURS AGO - BY THE LINCOLN JOURNAL STAR

**John Remine "Dugie" Doyle, was born in Lincoln, Neb. September 27, 1924 and died August 28, 2013. His parents were: father, L. R. "Lum" Doyle, and mother, Ruth Fitzgerald Doyle. He attended Lincoln High School and graduated from Campion Jesuit High School in Prairie Du Chien, Wis. and attended Yale University before enlisting in the armed services. He was a Navy pilot during WWII and served on the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga in the Pacific Fleet. After taking enemy fire during a bombing mission he was missing in action in the Philippines before being picked up by a Navy seaplane. He was awarded the Navy Cross for his military service. By profession he was a Nebraska lawyer. He served as former President of the Lincoln Council on Alcoholism and former Board Chairman of the National Council on Alcoholism. He was a long-time parishioner of the Cathedral of the Risen Christ.**

**He is survived by his wife, Barbara B. Doyle; and sons, Timothy J. Doyle (wife Mary) of Lincoln and Louis R. Doyle (wife Diana) of Pacific Palisades, Calif. Grandchildren are John C. Doyle and Anne Doyle; and Step-grandchild Kristin Kern-Lowe. He was preceded in death by brother, David F. Doyle, and sister, Mary M. Doyle-McQuiggan.**

**Mass of Christian Burial: 10 a.m. on Friday, September 6, at the Cathedral of the Risen Christ, 3500 Sheridan Blvd, Lincoln 68506. Msgr. Robert Tucker will Celebrate. Innumment and burial service for family members will be 3 p.m., September 6, in Calvary Cemetery, Lincoln. There will be no public viewing/visitation at the request of the Doyle family. A Rosary will be said at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, September 5, at Butherus, Maser and Love Funeral Home, 4040 A Street, Lincon 68510. Any memorials may be at the donor's discretion. Online condolences may be left at [www.bmlfh.com](http://www.bmlfh.com).**