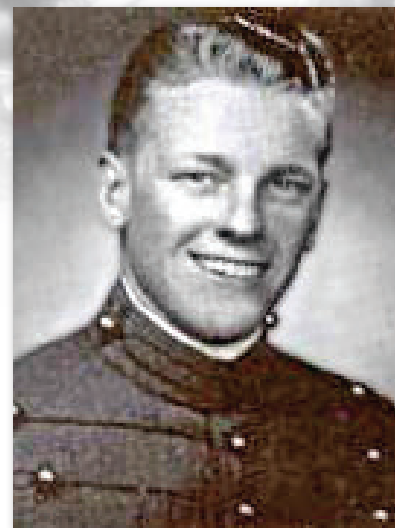


1st Lieutenant Gene Alton "Corky" Dennis

**U.S. Air Force, 474th Fighter Bomber Group,
428th Fighter Bombardment Squadron**

Medals: World War II Victory Medal, American Campaign Medal, Purple Heart, Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation; United Nations Service Medal; Republic of Korea War Service Medal with 1 star and the Good Conduct Medal



MHS CLASS OF 1944

***Inducted into the St. Marys Memorial High School
Hall of Fame for Military Service in 2025***

Gene Alton Dennis was born on December 27, 1925, in Tipton County, Indiana, the only child of Byron and Margaret Dennis. His family moved to Lima, Ohio, and then to St. Marys, Ohio, for his father's work at Nickel Plate Railroad. He graduated from St. Marys Memorial High School in 1944. Gene enjoyed everything about railroads and learned Morse code from his father. He also enjoyed reading about the exploits of



*MHS Class Presidents for the year 1940-41.
Freshman Gene Dennis, Sophomore Bob Maze,
Junior Jack Martin and Senior Richard Bushong.*

Colonel Roscoe Turner, a stunt pilot, and the Army Air Force during World War I.

Shortly after graduation, at age 17, Gene enlisted in the Army Air Force

on June 19, 1944, during World War II. He attended Aviation Cadet Training at Keesler Field, Mississippi. Out of a group of 160 students, Gene was one of six selected for pilot training at Spence Field in Moultrie, Georgia. While there, he received an appointment to the U.S. Military Academy at West Point

by Representative Robert F. Jones of Ohio's Fourth District. In March 1945, he attended Army Pre-Cadet Training School in Amherst, Massachusetts. He was awarded the Good Conduct Medal in May 1945 for "exemplary behavior, efficiency, and fidelity." He was honorably discharged from the Army in June 1945.

Dennis took the entrance examinations for the USMA and was determined to be deficient in Spanish, so he left and attended the Sullivan Preparatory School, and



*Gene Dennis high school
graduation photo.*

**Gene Alton
Dennis**



Republic F-84 Thunderjet fighter-bomber similar to the one Lt. Dennis flew. Right: Gene in uniform with Lanny Beach (left) and Larry Beach.



retook the entrance examinations the following year. He was readmitted as a member of the Class of 1950. He was appointed Supply Sergeant of Company M of the First Regiment of the United States Corps of Cadets in October 1949, and he was among 671 cadets who graduated on June 6, 1950. He was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the U.S. Air Force on June 2, 1950, and assigned first to Randolph Field in San Antonio for flight training and then reassigned to Goodfellow. He was

in the first group to solo and was identified as a "natural" by his flight commander. Gene was selected for Advanced Jet Training at Williams Air Force Base in Arizona and was one of the first to solo in the T-33 jet trainer. His mother proudly pinned his silver pilot wings on him on August 4, 1951, Class 51-E, as an F-80 Jet Fighter Pilot in Chandler, Arizona.

Gene then attended Fighter Combat Crew Training at Luke Air Force Base in Arizona. He developed a reputation there as an outstanding fighter pilot and was selected to attend theater indoctrination at Johnson Air Base in Japan. In a memorial posted on the USMA Class of 1950 site, it describes an accident that occurred during an F-80 training



428th Flight Jacket

flight in which Gene showed remarkable professional skill. He was flying an F-80 when there was a complete electrical failure and engine flameout. Instead of ejecting, Gene elected to land the F-80, making a belly landing and saving the aircraft from destruction. That same day, Gene received orders to report to the 474th Fighter Bomber Group in Korea. He flew a F-84E Thunderjet Fighter with the 428th Fighter Bombardment Squadron, completing 20 combat missions, and was awarded the Air Medal. On September 28, 1952, he was pilot four of four on a combat mission targeting a main supply route known as Red 3, two miles south of Hukkyo-ri, near Pyongyang, North Korea. The first three planes began their bombing run when they noticed the fourth plane – Gene's – was missing. They reported seeing an explosion and hearing a garbled radio message that sounded like

**Gene Alton
Dennis**

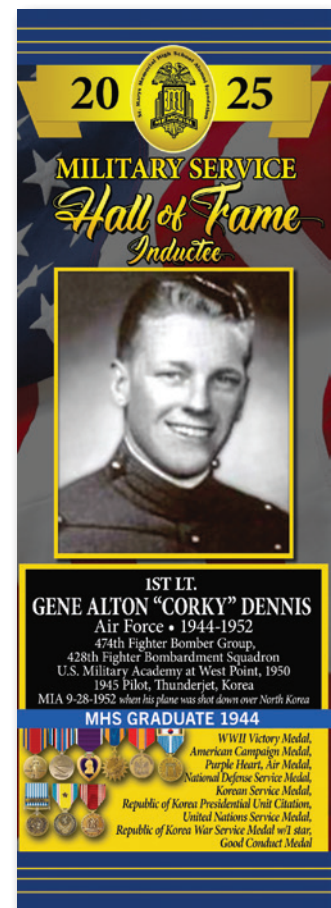


NAME OF DECEASED - LAST, FIRST, MIDDLE (First or Type) DENNIS, GENE Alton		14. NAME AND LOCATION OF CEMETERY (City and State) Memorial Park Cemetery, Lima, Ohio	
2. SERVICE NUMBER 20163A	3. PENSION OR VA CLAIM NUMBER XC 18 062 100	15. IMPORTANT - Item 18 on reverse side must be completed. See attached instructions and complete and submit both copies.	
4. ENLISTMENT DATE (Month, day, year) 6-2-1950	5. DISCHARGE DATE (Month, day, year) 12-31-1953 KIA	16. This application is submitted for a stone or marker for the unmarked grave of a deceased member or former member of the Armed Forces of the U. S., soldier of the Union or Confederate Armies of the Civil War or for an unmarked memorial plot for a non-recoverable deceased member. I hereby agree to accept responsibility for proper placement of the grave or memorial plot at no expense to the Government.	
6. STATE Ohio	7. DECORATIONS PH & Air Medal	17. NAME OF APPLICANT (Print or Type) Margaret J. Dennis Temple Mother	
8. GRAVE OR NAME	9. BRANCH OF SERVICE, COMPANY, REGIMENT, DIVISION 1st Lt. USAF 428th Fighter Bomber Sqdrn.	18. ADDRESS OF APPLICANT (Print or Type) #6 Elmview Court, Lima, Ohio 45805	
10. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year) 12-27-1952	11. DATE OF DEATH (Month, day, year) 12-31-1953	19. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT <i>Margaret J. Dennis Temple</i>	
12. RELIGIOUS EMBLEM (Check one) ☒ LATEX CROSS (Christian) ☐ STAR OF DAVID (Jewish) ☐ NO EMBLEM	13. CHECK TYPE REQUIRED ☐ UPRIGHT MARBLE HEADSTONE ☒ FLAT MARBLE MARKER ☐ FLAT GRANITE MARKER ☐ FLAT BRONZE MARKER	20. DATE 6-8-70	
DO NOT WRITE HERE		21. NAME OF CONSIGNEE WHO WILL TRANSPORT STONE OR MARKER Chiles & Sons Laman	
FOR VERIFICATION B/L Z-5317032		22. ADDRESS OF CONSIGNEE (Street address, City and State) 541 W. Wayne St., Lima, Ohio 45801	
ORDERED 8 0 JUL 1970		23. I HAVE AGREED TO TAKE THE STONE OR MARKER TO THE CEMETERY. <i>Harold R. Laman</i>	
CONTRACTOR BILL MEMORIAL		45901	
DD FORM 1330, 1 NOV 62		EDITION OF 1 DEC 61 MAY BE USED	
APPLICATION FOR HEADSTONE OR MARKER			

“Baker leader, I’m hit” or “they hit me.” His plane is believed to have been shot down by a MiG-15. No parachute was observed, and there were no reports of Gene being held as a prisoner of war. Gene was listed as Missing in Action. On December 31, 1952, he was declared dead. His body has never been recovered.

Lieutenant Gene A. Dennis was awarded the Purple Heart Medal, Air Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Korean Service Medal, Republic of Korea Presidential Unit Citation, United Nations Service Medal, the Republic of Korea War Service Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal. His name is inscribed on the Courts of the Missing at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

in Honolulu. His name is also inscribed on the Korean War Veterans memorial Wall in Washington, D.C. A headstone commemorates his life and service at Memorial Park Cemetery in Lima, Ohio.



428th Squadron emblem



Gene Alton
Dennis



Gene Alton Dennis is the only St. Marys soldier who is listed as Missing in Action. He is profiled on the Department of Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency web page. According to the Agency, 1Lt. Dennis was shot down one mile from his intended target, a rail line just south of Hukkyo-ri (train station), North Korea. The crash site was located by search and rescue, but no pilot was observed at the time. There was no evidence presented that he was captured, and he remains unaccounted for today, since declared dead.

The location of the crash site is known to the Department of Defense; however, there is no documentation that any negotiations have taken place to search the site. In 2018, the United States negotiated the return of remains of 55 U.S. soldiers; all have been identified. There are approximately 200 boxes of remains from the Korean conflict that were turned over between 1990 and 1994 that remain unidentified. A DNA sample has been obtained from the Dennis family members through the work of the Korean War project. Over 7000 soldiers remain missing from the Korean War.

You can help by contacting your Representative or Senator and by contacting the Department of Defense Accounting Office for Casualties at the following and urge them to do whatever they can to bring our military servicemen and women - including 1Lt. Gene A. Dennis - home. Here is a sample message you can send to them:

"We urge you to do everything in your power to bring home the remains of 1st Lieutenant Gene A. Dennis, U.S. Air Force 474th Fighter Bomber Group, 428th Fighter Bombardment Squadron. He was a 1944 graduate of Memorial High School in St. Marys, Auglaize County, Ohio, and was shot down on September 28, 1952, just 1-2 miles south of Hukkyo-ri, near Pyong Yang, North Korea. A family member has submitted a DNA sample so that his remains can be identified. Let's bring him home."

Please remember to include your name and address on all correspondence to military and Congressman/Senators so that they may respond to you.

U.S. Air Force
HQ AFPC/DPFCM
550 C Street West
JBSA-Randolph, TX 78150-4716
Tel: 1 (800) 531-5501
Email: AFPC.DPFC.POW.MIA@us.af.mil

State Department
U.S. Department of State CA/OCS/ACS/EAP
SA-17, 10th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20522-1707
Phone: (771) 204-6068
Public Affairs Office
Washington, D.C.
2300 Defense Pentagon
Attn: External Affairs
Washington D.C. 20301-2300

Or contact the Korean War Project:
The Korean War Project
P.O. Box 180190
Dallas, Texas 75218-0190
(214) 320-0342
koreanwar.org

Senator Bernie Moreno (OH-R)
SR-284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
T: (202) 224-2315

Senator John Husted (OH-R)
Senator Husted only accepts communication through a form on his website - <https://www.husted.senate.gov/contact-jon/>

Ohio Representative Jim Jordan
2056 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
(202) 225-2676

You can also use the online form on his website to send him a message: <https://jordan.house.gov/contact>

Other helpful websites:
<https://www.cnn.com/2019/10/02/us/us-korean-war-soldiers-identified-trnd/index.html>
<https://dpaa-mil.sites.crmforce.mil/dpaaContactUsNav>
<https://www.koreanwar.org/html/lookusaf.htm>

**Gene Alton
Dennis**



Missing Man Table & Honors Ceremony

A round table is used to represent the everlasting concern for the missing men.

A head cover is placed upon the table to represent the armed service of the missing persons.

A white tablecloth symbolizes the purity of their motive when answering the call to duty.

A single red rose in the vase reminds us the life of each of the missing, and their loved ones and friends who keep the faith, awaiting answers. The vase is tied with a red ribbon, a symbol of our continued determination to account for our missing.

A slice of lemon on the bread plate reminds us of the bitter fate of the missing.

The Bible represents the strength gained through faith to sustain those lost from our country.

A pinch of salt sprinkled on the bread plate symbolizes the tears shed by waiting families.

A glass is inverted to symbolize that the missing and fallen cannot partake.

A lit candle symbolizes a light of hope that lives in hearts to illuminate the missing's way home.

An empty chair represents the absence of the missing and fallen.

Gene Alton
Dennis