



## **John S. Ketzner** **Class of 1939**

John S. "Abe" Ketzner graduated from Fort Hill High School in 1939, part of the first class to complete their entire high school careers at the new Fort Hill. John would readily admit to not being a standout student at Fort Hill; but, in spite of his own tepid efforts, he knows that he received a very fine and comprehensive education while attending Fort Hill. He particularly remembers History teacher and class advisor Mr. Gregory taking a high interest in John, both during his high school career and also, afterwards, as John began his business career. John had a short but significant military service during World War II and a long and very accomplished professional career as a railroad executive. His only formal education in preparation for this very challenging and successful life was his ElHi education, most especially his public school education at Fort Hill. He acknowledges also that even the personal qualities that help make him successful...grit, courage, work-ethic, integrity and drive... were all nurtured and encouraged in his days at Fort Hill.

John was proudly married to Cumberland native Mary Elizabeth "Betty" Carter for almost 70 years. Together they saw the birth of four children, thirteen grandchildren and twenty-nine great grandchildren (and not an Allegany fan among them). During World War II he was a navigator in the 8th Air Force, was shot down and a Prisoner-of-War. He has been awarded many medals and citations for his service, including being named a Chevalier in the French Legion of Honor. John was featured in the 8th Air Force documentary "The Cold Blue." (2019). Following the War, John returned to the B&O Railroad and retired from the CSX Systems after almost 45 years as the Assistant Vice President of Purchasing and Materials. John lives in Baltimore.