

John Bucur

John Bucur was born in Youngstown, Ohio on March 5, 1925. He graduated high school in 1943 as valedictorian of his class and received a scholarship to Ohio University. During his first year, Bucur decided to enlist in the army. He was sent to Fort Sill, where he received training to be in an observation battalion – which used the sound and flash of gunfire to pinpoint enemy locations and give coordinates to artillery units. Bucur's battalion was one of the first to be sent overseas, however, they were held back from combat until the ground troops established an area for them to work. Bucur's unit was watching on a ship off the shore of Omaha Beach during D-Day. Once they took to the shore, Bucur's unit moved across Europe – through England, France, and Germany. At the end of the war, Bucur was taken on a tour through Buchenwald, since he was one of the 17th Observation Battalions officers.

Bucur was not allowed to return to America after V-E Day because troops were being moved to the Pacific, so he remained in Europe took college courses at an American School in Biarritz, France. On December 2, 1945, Bucur was told he was allowed to return to the United States. He arrived home on December 7, 1945 and was discharged from the army. He was a sergeant and he received five bronze stars and a Medal of Honor for his service. Bucur finished his degree at Ohio University and graduated in 1948. He went on to medical school and became a neurosurgeon. Bucur has had five children, with two wives. After working in several hospitals he moved to Arlington Virginia and founded Fairfax Hospital, Northern Virginia Doctor's Hospital, and the National Orthopedic Hospital.