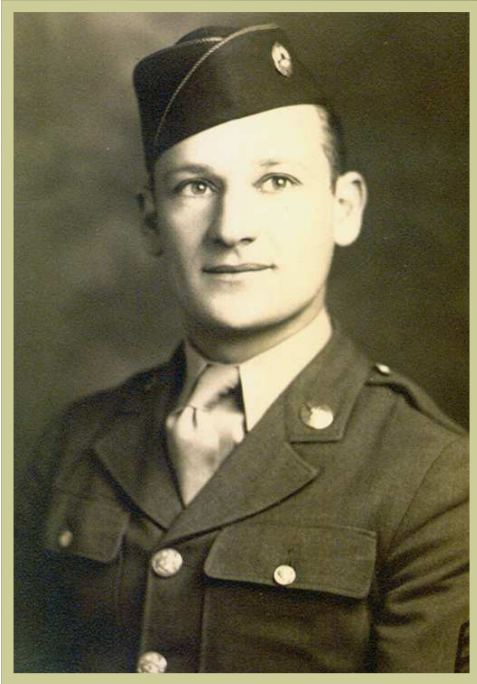


# Anthony J. Leonetti

## U.S. Army Air Corps Airplane Mechanic



**Anthony J Leonetti**  
U.S. Army Air Corps  
Airplane Mechanic. WWII

I enlisted in the Army Air Corps on December 10, 1941 at Fort Sheridan, Illinois, three days after the attack on Pearl Harbor. I was born in Sherman, Illinois and my parents were Anastasia and Antonio Leonetti. At Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, I finished basic training and was transferred to Gowen Field, Boise, Idaho for training as an aircraft welder.

In 1942, I was transferred to Alamogorda, New Mexico to service B-17's. Next, I was transferred to Walla Walla, Washington Air Base for more training. After a brief stay there, I went back to Pendleton AFB. As a Tech Sergeant, I was attached to the 568th Air Engineers Squadron, 358 Service Group of the 20th Air Force. We moved up to Seattle, Washington to Boeing Aircraft for training on B-29's.

After training on B-29's, we went to Tinker

Field, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma and then to Great Bend, Kansas where I met and married Nora Sue Miller on July 6, 1944 in the Base Chapel. Our group of airplane mechanics were processed to leave for overseas. After a trip by train to Seattle, we boarded the ship for the Mariana Islands and landed on Tinian Island in October, 1944. The B-29's flew off Tinian Island to bomb Japan. The round trip from there to Japan was about 3000 miles. Many of our planes were damaged over the target. We repaired them to fly again. The Enola Gay flew from Tinian to drop the atomic bomb on Japan. And, thank God we did. If we would have invaded Japan, we would have lost over a million men. I left Tinian Island by ship and landed in San Pedro, California. The Air Corps awarded me the Good Conduct Medal and the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal. I was discharged on November 22, 1945 at Fort Logan, Colorado.

Nora and I have two children, Amber Sue and Timothy. We settled down in Sherman, Illinois. We have five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. I worked as a welder for Fiat Alilis. I also served as Precinct Committeeman for 29 years and on the County Board of 14 years. After I retired, Nora and I joined the veterans to help build the World War II Illinois Veterans Memorial in Springfield, Illinois. The Memorial was dedicated on December 4, 2004.

Anthony 'Tony' Leonetti  
Sherman, Illinois