



September 2023

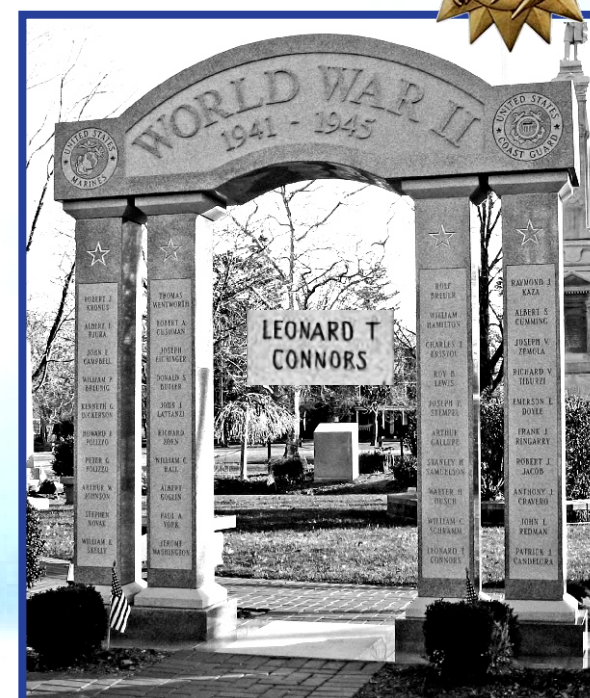
Stratford Veterans Museum

VETERAN OF THE MONTH



LEONARD T. CONNORS

Technical Sergeant



Leonard T. Connors was born in Shelton on September 3, 1915. His family moved to 1882 Barnum Avenue in Stratford. Leonard enrolled in Franklin School in March of 1925. He graduated from Stratford High School in 1933.

Leonard went into business and was the proprietor of a gas station at the corner of Madison and Wayne Street when he was called into service. Leonard entered the Army Air Force and after training was assigned to the 785th Bomber Squadron, 446th Bomb Group, Heavy.

He had attained the rank of Technical Sergeant and was a radial gunner on a B-24 Liberator.

On the morning of July 28th they were assigned a strategic bombing mission and was loaded to full capacity. The Liberator came across the runway, cleared the ground and leveled off. The plane had not gained 300 feet when it suddenly went out of control. Within 10 seconds it crashed. Leonard's B-24 crashed and exploded. The entire crew died and are buried together in the Cambridge American Cemetery, Cambridge, England.

Leonard was the recipient of the Purple Heart Medal and the Air Medal with two oak leaf clusters. This was to be the crews final mission.

The street that runs south of Bunnell High School between Huntington Road and Nichols Avenue, is named Connors Lane after Leonard.