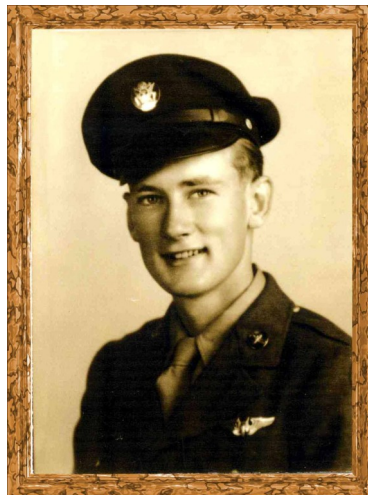


## A Salute to Roy Hood WWII and Beyond

*Presented by  
Pearson Wood, 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice Commander  
American Legion Post 67  
Cary, North Carolina  
March 11, 2008*



LeRoy Edward Hood was born January 19, 1926, in Albany, NY. His father served in the U.S. Navy for a short hitch after WWI. Roy has one younger brother, currently living in Charlotte, NC, who is retired from IBM. Roy's son, Sanford, also served in the U.S. Air Force from 1976 to 1980.

Roy grew up in Albany and attended public schools there. While in high school he knew he wanted to get into military service, so he enlisted in the Army Air Force on October 12, 1943, before high school graduation in January, 1944. After graduation, he entered active duty as a cadet.

Active duty started at Camp Upton, Long Island, NY; then he was sent to Biloxi, MS, at Kessler Air Force Base, where he had twelve weeks of Army Basic training. Then he was sent to Buckingham Air Force Base at Fort Myers, FL, where he went to Aerial Gunnery School. Upon graduation, he was transferred to Lincoln, Nebraska Air Force Base, where he was assigned to a combat crew. Then to Alamogordo, NM, for transition to combat flight training. Next he went to Herrington Air Force Base in Kansas to pick up a brand new B29 Super Bomber and airborne flying equipment.

Roy's next stop was overseas to Hawaii, then Kwajalein Atoll in the Pacific, then to Guam, and finally to Tinian in the Marianna Islands.

Tinian was the base from where B29s were sent to mainland Japan on bombing missions. These missions were a 3,000 mile round trip and 13-16 hours flying time. They carried 2,000 pound bombs and incendiary bombs. Five times on return trips, Roy's B29 had to land at Iwo Jima for refueling and repairs. Tinian was where the first Atomic Bombs started; Roy was at Tinian when "Fat Man" and "Little Boy" arrived.

At the end of WWII, Roy had flown on fourteen combat missions and two Prisoner Of War missions to drop food and medical supplies. In 1946, Roy was discharged from active duty and he joined the active reserves; he retired from the active reserves in 1972. Roy was 1st Sergeant at his last duty station, Patrick Air Force Base, Cocoa Beach, FL.

He married Kathryn Hallenbeck in May 1947 at Albany, where he worked for the American Locomotive Company. Roy and Kay raised two children, a boy and a girl. In 1959 Roy and Kay decided they'd had enough of the harsh weather in Albany, so they and their children moved to Florida. He had designed and built two homes in New York and then built two more while they resided in Florida. Roy did not have a job in Florida until he got there and applied for one. He went to work for Pan American Airways at Cape Canaveral for nineteen years and retired as a Missile Launch Complex Supervisor in 1978.

**While in Florida, Roy earned an Associate of Science in Mechanical Engineering degree at Brevard Community College, which is now Florida State University.**

**Roy and Kay then came to North Carolina where he worked for the U.S. government as Chief of Maintenance & Operations for the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS). He retired in 1989, and has enjoyed retirement since that time.**

**Roy has been awarded the Air Medal with one Oak Leaf Cluster, Western Pacific Theater, two Battle Stars, American Defense Ribbon, Good Conduct Metal, and New York State Defense Ribbon.**

**I have known Roy for a number of years, we both belong to Resurrection Lutheran Church in Cary where Roy has used his woodworking and carpentry skills to make bulletin and hymnal holders for the pews.**



**He has always been an active member and helped at conventions, etc.**

**At our Post Home, Roy has built our picture board and the cabinet that protects our flags and bunting.**



---

**Roy Hood, The American Legion Post 67, Cary, North Carolina, salutes you for your service to God and country!**