

Story #916 Donald Wilkinson

Tech Sergeant Donald Wilkinson (1923-2004) was a Mazomanie World War II veteran and a charter member of the Mazomanie Greening – Buelow American Legion Post #437.

Donald enlisted in the Army Air Force on January 11, 1943 from Milwaukee. He mustered out on September 31, 1945, having served nearly three years. Don was a flight engineer and top turret gunner on B17s that flew combat missions over Europe in 1944. He was with the 401st Bomb Squadron of the 91st Bomb Group of the 8th Air Force.

Donald William Wilkinson was born in Mazomanie on September 13, 1923 to Mazomanie garage mechanic William Wilkinson and Gladys Robson. He is found there with his family at the 1930 as a six year old. Donald is a 17 year old mechanic with his family in Mazomanie at the 1940 US Census. He graduated from the Mazomanie High School in 1941. His June 30, 1942 Draft Card listed him as 5'-6", 155 # with a light complexion, brown hair and gray eyes. Donald was listed as living in Mazomanie working for Mr. Osmundson of Black Earth.

Donald married Vila Horton (1920-2012) in Amarillo TX on September 6, 1943. She was the daughter of West Point, Columbia County farmer Gilbert Horton and Ida Abbott. After the war, the couple returned to Wisconsin, where Don was an auto mechanic the rest of his life in Prairie du Sac at City Service – Citgo Station. The 1950 West Point Census listed the couple. He is a mechanic. Donald passed away in Prairie du Sac on December 12, 2004 and is buried in the Garden Bluff Cemetery of Lodi with his wife. They had five children.

