

## Story #927 Leonard Szudy

Dr. Leonard Szudy (1920-2002) was a Mazomanie World War II veteran and a charter member of the Mazomanie Greening – Buelow American Legion Post #437. He was also Post Commander in 1952/1953. Leonard was on the Board of Directors of the Wisconsin American Legion Boys State at Ripon WI.

Leonard enlisted in the Coast Guard on January 5, 1942, as an Apprentice Seaman, serving first as a guard on ore ships in Great Lakes duty. Later Great Lakes duty was served in galley duty on many different Coast Guard ships, as he was promoted up to Ship's Cook 2<sup>nd</sup> Class. In December, 1944, he was sent to California, for duty in the Pacific. On January 5, 1945, he re-enlisted. Len was assigned to several different ships in the Philippines area, until September, when he returned to California onboard the USS General G. M. Randall. He served at various stations in California before being discharged on March 21, 1946, serving four years.

Leonard "Len" Albin Szudy was born in Chicago on March 1, 1920, the son of Polish born plumbing polisher Matt Szudy and his Chicago born wife Helena Michalak. Len is first found in Berwyn IL with his family at the 1930 US Census as a ten year old. Len attended Sterling Mortan East High School of Cicero IL and was a Golden Gloves Boxing Champion in Chicago in the 1930s. The 1940 US Census of Berwyn listed the 20 year old with his family as a single college student. He was attending Ripon College as an ROTC student. His July 1, 1941 Draft Card listed him as 5'-10", 175 # with a light complexion, brown hair and blue eyes. He was listed as 21 years old, living in Berwyn and working for the Hot Point Electric Company. While attending Ripon College, he met Dorothy Dunlap (1920-1997), a Mazomanie native. They were married August 9, 1941 in Chicago. She was the daughter of Mazomanie Mill operator Guy Dunlap and Mayme Kirch.

After the war, he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Education from Ripon in 1947 and taught social studies at Viroqua High School before being hired as principal of Mazomanie High School. The 1950 Mazomanie US Census listed the married couple. He is listed as a 30 year outdoor theatre manager with three children. Len was Principal of Mazomanie High School from 1951 to-1956, after which he left to be principal at West Allis Central High School. He received his Masters Degree from UW-Madison in 1952 and his Doctor of Education from the University of Northern Colorado in 1960.

Len passed away on July 15, 2002 in West Allis WI. He is buried in the Dunlap Cemetery of Mazomanie Township with his wife. They had four children.



