

Program

Posting of Colors

Invocation - William Van Alstyne

Pledge of Allegiance by Wilson Shea

Presentation of American Flag Donated by
Congressman Chris Gibson

Presenting Proclamation – Patrick Grattan
Chairman - Columbia Co. Bd. Of Supervisors

Presentation of the New York State Senate Liberty Medal
By New York State Senator Katherine Marchione

Retiring of the Colors

Flag Ceremony

Rifle Squad

Taps - played by Fred Stark

Closing Prayer

**Please take a moment to look at the plaque across the hall outside
The Board of Supervisors chamber which lists the names of the
other Veteran's honored by this Committee since 2000.**

Leonard William Dooren

Leonard William Dooren was born October 3, 1916 to Florence (Talbot) and Peter Dooren in Paterson, New Jersey. Although an "ace student", he was forced to quit school to assist his father with the dairy business. He received a correspondence high school diploma.

In 1935 during the Depression Leonard enlisted in the United States Navy lured by a poster that suggested, "Join the Navy and See the World". After basic and oil burning boiler school, Leonard was assigned to the USS New Orleans (CA32) where he met and married his best friend's (Charlie) sister Dorothy Van Wert in Honolulu, Hawaii.

On December 7, 1941 Leonard heard low-flying planes outside his Naval Base apartment and "recognized the Japanese symbol, a red circle on the wings of a plane", "lock(ing) eyes with one of the pilots". Immediately returning to his ship which was under engine repair, Len fired at the attacking planes from the deck of the ship with a pistol. In the coming years Chief Warrant Officer Len Dooren would engage the enemy in 17 Pacific Battles including: Coral Sea, Midway and the Solomon Islands.

On November 30, 1942 at the Battle of Tassafaronga he received a commendation for actions he took when a Japanese torpedo blew the bow off of his ship killing 180 crew members. On same day he received news that his brother, Bobby, was killed aboard the USS Hornet. Chief Warrant Officer 3 Len Dooren would serve 23 years in the navy and retire in 1958.

For his service to his country, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Len Dooren was awarded the following: the Good Conduct Medal w/3 stars, American Defense Service Medal w/star, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal w/12 stars, European-African Middle Eastern Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal, Philippine Liberation Ribbon and the National Defense Service Medal.

For the next 25 years he would work for the insurance industry attaining the management position of Vice President of Coroon and Black of New York, Inc. In the interim he and Dolly lived on Queechy Lake in Canaan, New York and raised 4 children: Douglas, Leonard, Dorothy and Noralen.

Len remained active in his community. He was a member of the Queechy Lake Club, the Canaan Historical Society, the Northern Columbia County Rotary and served 4 terms as Supervisor of the Town of Canaan.

Leonard died on December 25, 2012 and was buried at the Dutch Reform Church in Claverack, New York. He was 96 years old.