



## 2018 Parkman Paragraphs Memorial Day Special Edition

**Special Thanks to all of our Parkman Veterans!**



Special Thanks to all of our Active Duty and Veterans throughout all eras of our country's existence for all of the sacrifices that they have made to give us our freedoms and continue to make our country a safe place to live. May our future generations understand these sacrifices from our Veterans and appreciate the quality of life created for them. Cory Anderson



**Honoring  
Leonard Hickox  
1931 – 1999**

**Past Parkman Veteran Honorees**

2001	John R. Ferry
2002	Robert F. Barnett
2003	Glenn A. Thompson
2004	Richard Stanchak
2005	Richard W. Giles
2006	Richard O. Pollari
2007	Stanley Smith
2008	Dennis Testa
2009	Gotham Brothers - John – Carlisle "Kelly" - Glen – Neil - Leland
2010	Albert Wilson
2011	Harold Blackford
2012	Carl B. Wilson
2013	Carl "Ed" Wilson
2014	William Snyder
2015	Richard "Dutch" Komandt
2016	Paul Wayne Komandt
2017	Steven G. Soltis
2018	Leonard J. Hickox

**On behalf of the Parkman Trustees and the Parkman Chamber of Commerce**

**Special Thanks for the continued support of the Geauga County Sheriff Department**

**Middlefield VFW Post 9678**

**Parkman Volunteer Fire and Rescue Team**

**Parkman Boy Scout and Cub Scout Troops #76**

**Parkman Girl Scouts and Brownies**

**Cardinal Marching Band**

**Rev. William Coley - Parkman Congregational Church**

**and the various participants who helped to make our Parkman Memorial Day Parade a success.**

**Best wishes to everyone for a fun and safe summer and don't forget to give THANKS to a Veteran.**



Leonard Hickox was born at the Huron Road Hospital in Cleveland on November 3<sup>rd</sup> 1931 to Lynn and Blanche Hickox of Middlefield. He had two older brothers, Harold and Robert. They were raised on a farm just west of Middlefield and attended Middlefield Schools. He Graduated with the Class of 1949. Soon after High School the boys lost both of their parents.

One day in 1952, a draft notice to the US Army arrived in the mailbox. Leonard left it there and immediately went out signed up for the Air Force. From the very beginning there was one thing he liked about the Service, the food. He gained nearly 30 pounds.

Basic Training for an Aircrew included the dreaded "Survival Hike". The Trainees were dropped off in the snow covered Sierra Nevada Mountains. It was rough; they ate Porcupines, melted snow for water and used parachutes for tents. Things dramatically improved one night when the Instructor caught his tent on fire. Without shelter he was forced to move in with the trainees and share his supplies.



After Basic Training it was off to the famous Randolph Field in Texas for Aircrew training. After Graduation, he was assigned to the 98<sup>th</sup> Bombardment Wing as a waist gunner on a B-29 Bomber crew. Once flight training was complete, they flew to their new home base, Yokota Air Field, Japan.

They completed a full tour of duty, 25 missions over North Korea. In between missions Leonard enjoyed riding his bicycle through rural Japan. Years later he was impressed at how they had recovered from the post World War II poverty he had seen.



All of their missions were night bombing raids against strategic North Korean targets, mostly bridges and rail yards. There was always the threat of antiaircraft fire and interception by North Korean MIG-15 fighters. Perhaps, the most real danger was the condition of the aging B-29's. Leftovers from World War two, they were well worn by the time they were pressed into service for the Korean War.



As the crew celebrated completion of their 25<sup>th</sup> mission, they flew home over the Sea of Japan. Suddenly, one of the engines over sped and sheared its propeller shaft. They had to perform an emergency landing on a narrow airstrip build for much smaller fighters. The wider B-29 destroyed the runway's landing lights, but all were safe.



After arriving back in the states, he did a brief tour of duty in Alaska as part of the Strategic Air Command, and then returned to finish his service in Topeka Kansas reaching the rank of Staff Sargent.



Leonard came back to Middlefield. He met Marian Stanley of Parkman in 1956. They married in 1959 and had three boys, Stephen, Jeffery and David. In 1969 they build their own house in Parkman on the old Stanley farm. After working several construction Jobs, he started at Flambeau Products in Middlefield (the old Vlcek Tool Co.), retiring after 28 years as the Maintenance Supervisor. He enjoyed gardening and the outdoors. He passed away in 1999.

Leonard was always proud of his Service in the US Air force.

Thank you Leonard for your honorable service!  
Special Thanks to Steve Hickox and the Hickox Family  
for helping prepare this tribute!