



MoMM

Leo Franklin Michael
Motor Machinist Mate 1/C U.S. Navy
17 July 1943 – 31 March 1946

Leo was born on 24 December 1924 in Allentown, Pennsylvania. In his youth and at the time he entered the Navy, Leo lived with his family in Lower Macungie Township in Wescosville, Pennsylvania, where he attended grade school from 1931 to 1939. Leo then attended Allentown High School, from which he graduated in 1943. Leo enlisted in the Navy on 17 July 1943 as a Seaman Recruit, and underwent recruit training at Naval Training Station, Sampson near Seneca, New York. He was then assigned to Company A, Signal Battalion Training Center, Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, where he received radar training. Around August 1944, Leo left for Hawaii, where he was assigned to the Navy's Reshipping Depot at Iroquois Point, Hawaii, from which supplies were forwarded to forces in the Pacific Theater. At some point, probably while he was assigned to Iroquois Point, he was classified as a Motor Machinist Mate (MoMM). As an MoMM, Leo operated machine tools for maintaining engines and engine auxiliaries. From Hawaii, Leo went to Guam, where initially he was assigned to a unit as part of Lion #6, a large advanced all-purpose naval base, which had the ability to make minor repairs to battle-damaged ships. Leo later served on Guam with a Naval Communications unit in the Motor Pool. Around December 1945, Leo boarded net-laying ship *USS Stagbush* (AN-69), which had recently completed post-war minesweeping operations in Japanese waters, for transport to San Francisco. After arriving there, Leo crossed country to the Naval Personnel Separation Center in Bainbridge, Maryland, where he was discharged as MoMM 1/C on 31 March 1946. For his wartime service, Leo was awarded the American Campaign, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign, and World War II Victory Medals. Leo returned home to Wescosville, and opened his own business, L.F. Michael Trucking, which he operated until 1960, at which time he established L.F. Michael Paving. He operated the paving business until retiring in 1983. Leo married **Gloria Anna Kuhns** (born 16 February 1924) on 26 November 1948 in St. Paul's Union Church in Trexlertown, Pennsylvania. Leo moved from Wescosville to Zionsville, Pennsylvania, in 1967, around the time he bought the Queen of the Valley farm in Zionsville. While living on the farm, he operated his paving business from the old coalyard at the Zionsville Station on the Perkiomen Railroad. He subsequently subdivided the farm into residential building lots. Around 1990 he renovated the office on the coalyard property into a residence in which he lived before entering a nursing home in Coopersburg, where he died on 6 June 2001. His ashes were scattered in a pine tree field on the Zionsville Coalyard property. Leo and Gloria had three children, **Tamara**, **Phillip**, and **David**. Phillip served in the Marine Corps during the Vietnam War. Leo was a member of the Wescosville Fire Company. Leo's parents were **Franklin Adam Michael** (9 December 1879 – 9 June 1965) and **Gertrude J. Fischer** (24 June 1896 – 19 April 1943).



USS Stagbush (AN-69)