



Freemasons



High Twelve Club



Rajah Shriners

Ray Leiby Bieber
Master Sergeant U.S. Army
13 January 1944 – 7 July 1947

Ray was born on 19 August 1912, in Kutztown, Pennsylvania. In 1919 the family moved to Maxatawny Township in Berks County, Pennsylvania, and in 1920 to Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 3-8 at Danner's School on Mill Creek Road in Lower Macungie Township. Ray married **Audrey Bess Cope** (16 May 1918 – 26 January 2003) on 27 August 1938 at Zion Lehigh Church on Spring Creek Road in Lower Macungie Township. Initially, they made their home at "the cottage" on Spring Creek at 1967 Route 100. In 1942, after four years at the cottage, they made their home on Brook River Road in Douglassville, Pennsylvania, in Berks County. Ray went to work as a Machine Operator for Jacobs Aircraft in Pottstown, Pennsylvania, and had special training in Connecticut on testing Pratt-Whitney engines. Ray was then responsible for quality control of the airplane engines that left the plant. On 13 January 1944, Ray was inducted into the Army in Allentown, Pennsylvania, as a Private into what was the predecessor to the modern Army Reserves, i.e., the Enlisted Army Reserve Corps (ERC). The ERC was established for the recruitment and training of enlisted soldiers in Basic Engineering. On 3 February 1944, Ray was called to active duty and underwent training at the Armored School at Fort Knox, Kentucky. On 26 September 1945, he left for Asiatic-Pacific Theater where he served in Korea as a Construction Engineer. By 12 January 1946, Ray had risen to the rank of Staff Sergeant, Construction Foreman, and re-enlisted on that day in the Regular Army at the 57th Military Government Headquarters in Kwangju, Korea. He remained in Korea for the remainder of his enlistment, serving as an Administrative Non-Commissioned Officer. He left Korea by ship on 10 October 1946 for Fort Lewis, Washington, where he was discharged on 7 July 1947 as a Master Sergeant. Ray was awarded the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, World War II Victory Medal, and World War II Army of Occupation Medal (w/Japan Clasp). After Ray returned home, he and Audrey settled in Lower Macungie Township, and he went to work as a self-employed Plumbing & Heating Contractor until 1965, when he went to work for Service Supply Company Plumbing & Heating Wholesale House. In 1972 he became a Plumbing Inspector for Lower Macungie Township until 1985, the year he retired. Ray and Audrey had three children: **Guy Robert**, who served in the Pennsylvania National Guard in the 1970s, **Scott Cope**, who served in the Army in 1969 and 1970, and **Claudia Lynn**. Ray was an avid sportsman and loved trap shooting. He helped to organize the Lehigh Valley Trap League, and was a member and President of the Rural Sportsmen's Association. He also was a member and Past Master of Lehigh Lodge No. 326, Free & Accepted Masons; the High Twelve Club; and member of The Valley of Allentown and Rajah Shriners. Ray died on 12 December 2001 at Lehigh Valley Hospital. He is buried at Hope Cemetery in Kutztown, with Audrey's remains placed on the same lot. Ray's parents were **Thomas Christman Bieber** (21 December 1873 – 18 July 1950) and **Katie Christiana Leiby** (29 February 1880 – 28 January 1979).