**LTC PAUL SABASTINE LAWRENCE**

**WWI, WWII Veteran**

**(April 24, 1896-Oct 27, 1947)**

Paul Sabastine Lawrence was born on April 27, 1896 in Dayton, Ohio. He received his extended education at the Jacobs’ Business College and the University of Dayton.

He was a student at the University of Dayton when he enlisted in the Army as a Private during WWI. He served with distinction and was wounded in the Battle of the Argonne. He eventually was discharged as a Lieutenant.

He moved to Valley View, New York in 1928, and became active in the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He rose to the rank of State Commander of the Department of New York in 1938.

As WW2 began, he was the veteran’s representative of the 2nd Civil Defense Region. He resigned that position to re-enlist in the Army. He was denied a combat position due to his age and was posted to the Combat Engineers, 36th Battalion and later to the 56th  Amphibious Battalion. He participated in the invasions of North Africa (Operation Torch), Salerno (Operation Avalanche), and the invasion of Southern France (Operation Husky). By the war’s end, he was a Lieutenant Colonel, received a Purple Heart, the Legion of Merit, the Invasion Arrowhead, and eight battle stars. He is buried at the Long Island National Cemetery, East Farmingdale, NY.

On Aug. 3, 1948, by the authority of the Veterans of Foreign wars of the United States, our Post with its 37 original members received its charter in Columbus, Ohio. We have had four locations since our founding, including on current property located at the John Glenn International Airport. But we are doing LTC Lawrence proud.

