

## **MICHAEL J. POHORILLA**

### **WORLD WAR II VETERAN**

M.J. (Mike) Pohorilla, a WWII Veteran, enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Force as an Aviation Cadet in 1942, when he was only 18 years old, eventually earning a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Commission and Navigator Wings. He served aboard a B-17G Flying Fortress with the 385<sup>th</sup> Bomb Group in the 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force in England under the command of Lt. Gen. Jimmy Doolittle and completing 35 missions. However, on his 18<sup>th</sup> mission his aircraft suffered major damage while bombing Germany's major synthetic oil refinery, forcing the crew to crash in liberated Belgium. All crew members survived!

Mike left the service in 1945 as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lt., proceeding to earn a M.S. degree in chemistry at the University of Pennsylvania in 1950. His early professional career was in research with a small oil company where, as a member of a five-man research group, developed and marketed the first multi-graded motor oil in the U.S. in 1953. This event changed consumer practices, a watershed business outcome. His research resulted in several technical papers and eight U.S. patents. Most of his professional life, until retirement in 1986, was spent in the chemical industry as a marketing/business group executive both worldwide and in the U.S.

He married while still an undergraduate sophomore, but is now a widower after 55 years of marriage. He has two sons. He is a life member of the VFW and spearheads his local post's activities with students. He volunteers weekly at Motts Military Museum, where he is a member of the Board of Directors.