

# Robert Garabedian

## World War II Fighter Pilot & Veteran

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Robert Garabedian is a Connecticut World War II veteran and former Army Air Corps fighter pilot known for sharing his wartime experiences and lifelong dedication to veterans, family, and public service. Born around 1924–1925, Garabedian served during World War II as a fighter pilot in the United States Army Air Corps. He completed the extremely demanding wartime pilot training program, something only a small percentage of candidates achieved. Among his favorite aircraft were the legendary P-40 Warhawk and the P-47 Thunderbolt. During the war, he trained and prepared for the anticipated invasion of Japan in 1945 and later assisted in training other fighter pilots on the P-47 Thunderbolt. After the war, Garabedian built a large and close-knit family with his wife of more than 70 years. Together they raised 12 children — 8 boys and 4 girls. He often described his honeymoon in Bermuda as one of the happiest memories of his life. In civilian life, he became active in business and community organizations, including leadership roles with the Chamber of Commerce, the Red Cross, and United Way. He also remained deeply involved in veterans' activities and continued serving with the Colchester Veterans Honor Guard well into his later years. Known for his humor, storytelling, and patriotism, Garabedian became a respected figure in Connecticut veterans' circles. He frequently appeared at museums, historical events, and educational programs speaking about aviation and the World War II generation. In 2025, the World War II Legacy Foundation celebrated Robert Garabedian's 101st birthday alongside family, veterans, and members of the 43rd Infantry Division reenactment community. Garabedian's personal philosophy has remained simple and direct: keep your word, never cheat, and value family above all else.

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