

# John Santorelli

- *Summary by: Keith Rusinko*

**Branch:** United States Coast Guard

**Rank:** MM1C

**Years of Service:** 1941-1945

**Location of Service:** North Africa, Italy and Normandy, France

**Medals:** Purple Heart and other medals



John Santorelli was born on October 18, 1922 in Brewster NY. He graduated from Brewster High School at the age of 18 and enlisted in the United States Coast Guard in October of 1941.

## Summary of his service

Mr. Santorelli's job was more amphibious work as a part of landing crews for his boat. Santorelli was awarded the Purple Heart Medal when a German U-Boat in the English Channel hit his landing boat. During the attack, Santorelli broke both of his legs and suffered major hearing loss from the explosion the U-Boat caused. Santorelli was also awarded medals for campaigns in North Africa, Sicily, Salerno, Anzio beachhead, and Normandy France and five stars.

## Returning Home

After John Santorelli was discharged, he went back to Brewster and began working for the New York Central Railroad as a general foreman. Not too long after joining the workforce, John married Lee Zerbato from Mahopac NY in September of 1946. They continued to live in Brewster and eventually had a son. John Santorelli lived to the age of 90 and passed away in Brewster at his home on November 25, 2012. John Santorelli's legacy is survived by his wife, Lee and their son.