

Lloyd Gray, WWII Veteran, Dies At 81

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By THOMAS D. WILLIAMS, Courant Staff Writer

Lloyd S. Gray Sr., 81, a veteran U.S. Air Force pilot who lived to see his two best dreams come true, died Saturday at Windham Hospital.

The dreams, said close relatives, were to be a pilot and to marry his girlfriend, Lucille Mae Kelley. He became a pilot first, in 1944, and 29 years later married Lucille.

Gray was in the service for 23 years and retired as a lieutenant colonel. In World War II, Gray, then 21, flew 34 missions over Germany and one over France as a pilot in the B-17, known as the flying fortress, part of the 8th Air Force.

He later served for seven years as a communications officer in the security service in Japan and San Antonio, Texas. For another seven years, Gray served as aircraft commander in the Strategic Air Command piloting B-47 bombers. In civilian life, Gray was a technical writer for two companies, including Pratt & Whitney Corp.

Gray was born Sept. 3, 1923, in Willimantic. He was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church in Hebron, the Retired Officers' Association, the Hebron Historical Society, Hebron V.F.W. Post 8776 and American Legion Post No. 95.

Gray is survived by several children and 10 grandchildren.

Funeral services will be today at 10 a.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church. Burial with full military honors will be in St. Peter's Cemetery.