

# *Hernandez Celebrates 102nd Birthday*



**PFC TONY HERNANDEZ**

World War II Veteran Pfc. Tony Hernandez will celebrate his 102nd Birthday on Saturday, Jan. 18th. He was drafted into the U.S. Army on January 1943, trained as a lineman and was assigned to the 97th Signal Corp as a teletype mechanic specialist. He served in the American and Pacific Theatres of Operations.

On his way to the Philippines, he applied for the boxing team and was reassigned to special services earning the nickname “The Panther”. During an exhibition match in Panama, he beat the champion in his weight class.

After the defeat of Japan, he was reassigned to his original MOS as a lineman and sent to Japan to lay telephone lines.

His service awards included 1 service stripe, 2 overseas service bars, a good conduct medal, the American Campaign Medal, Asiatic - Pacific Campaign Medal, Philip-pine Liberation Ribbon and WWII Victory Medal.

An Honorable discharge was accepted on Feb. 17th, 1946. A member of American Legion Central Park Post 1028, he invites veterans to join the organization. Call (773) 247-1522 or email [mexfolroa@ameritech.net](mailto:mexfolroa@ameritech.net) for more information