

Brigadier General Peter R. Phillipy distinguished himself by making unique and exceptionally meritorious contributions to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard during an exemplary military career.

After serving as a P-51 fighter pilot in the European Theatre in World War II, General Phillipy began his Pennsylvania Air National Guard service in February 1948 when he joined the 148th Fighter Squadron based at Spaatz Field in Reading. He was recalled to active duty during the Korean Conflict, and thereafter was assigned as Commander of the 148th Fighter Squadron in 1953.

In 1955, General Phillipy was reassigned as the Commander of the 112th Tactical Fighter Group, Greater Pittsburgh Airport. In July 1957, General Phillipy brought great prestige and recognition to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard when he was awarded the Earl T. Ricks Memorial Trophy. He demonstrated outstanding airmanship, navigational skill and flying proficiency in guiding his F-84F Thunderstreak aircraft in a timed cross-country flight from Fresno, California to Andrews Air Force base in 4 hours, 13 minutes and 42 seconds, with an average record-breaking speed of 638 miles per hour.

In 1961, the 112th was designated as the 112th Air Defense Wing, and General Phillipy was assigned as wing commander. Under his leadership, the 112th won many honors and national recognition. In 1962, the unit won the coveted Air Defense "A" Award. Flying F-102s, the Wing's fighter squadron won the 1963 William Tell Award and world-wide recognition. The unit received the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 1964.

In 1964, General Phillipy assumed command of what was to become the 171st Aeromedical Airlift Wing, which won two Air Force Outstanding Unit Awards under his leadership. In 1972, the unit was redesignated as the 171st Air Refueling Wing. General Phillipy provided outstanding leadership to the Wing in Operation Creek Party in which the Wing provided refueling support to United States Air Forces Europe. The Wing earned an Air Force Outstanding Unit Award for its support of Creek Party operations.

From the date he joined the Air National Guard in 1948 until his retirement as commander of the 171st Air Refueling Wing in 1982, General Phillipy's outstanding leadership and management skills earned him and his unit recognition throughout the nation. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of General Phillipy during a military career that spanned five decades of service reflect the highest credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and make him truly deserving of induction into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.