

Chief Master Sergeant Domenic J. Pino distinguished himself by outstanding service to the United States and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania with the 111th Fighter Wing, Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

After a two-year stint in the U.S. Army, Chief Pino became one of the early members of the modern Air National Guard when he joined the 111th in 1948, and became a full-time technician in vehicle maintenance in 1949. As a volunteer to helping with fire fighting and emergency response, Chief Pino showed extraordinary service. After an F-84, piloted by the unit's Air Force advisor, skidded off the end of the runway, Chief Pino was the first person on the accident scene. The area around the aircraft was flooded with water and the pilot was dazed. Chief Pino jumped onto the aircraft, pinned the ejection seat, and straddled the nose of the aircraft. He reached into the cockpit and, putting his arms under the pilot's armpits, lifted the pilot out and placed him on the wing where two fellow 111th members carried him away to receive medical care. The pilot was saved from serious injury and returned to flying status. In 1957, Chief Pino was changing his clothes to go home when he heard an explosion. Instinctively, he grabbed a wheeled-fire bottle and ran out onto the flight line. Huge flames –over 20 feet into the air – were spewing out of a 24-inch manhole cover leading into the fuel tank. Chief Pino ran to the scene and started putting out the fire around the hole. Then he heard a voice coming from the tank. Chief Pino climbed into the hole and found a badly burned man down below. Chief Pino told the man to grab his leg. The Chief pulled the man out of the hole and directed two arriving 111th members to get an ambulance. Due to Chief Pino's quick actions and service above self, the seriously injured man survived. For Chief Pino's valor, he was awarded the Soldier's (Airman's) Medal, the Air Force's highest peacetime award.

As a leader of the 111th Motor Pool and vehicle maintenance activities, Chief Pino showed exemplary skill and innovation. Chief Pino created benchmarks before anyone knew what they were! Vehicle Identification Plates, seen on Air Force vehicles worldwide, were the brainchild of Chief Pino. Military conversion charts between miles-per-hour and kilometers-per-hour, which are posted on vehicle dashboards, were also his idea. In 1973, Chief Pino developed and implemented a plan to refurbish unused Marine Corps vehicles stored in the California desert for use by the 111th and tactical air support units, thereby saving the Guard more than \$7 million in vehicle acquisition costs. While under the leadership of Chief, Pino, the 111th Motor Pool received three consecutive Outstanding ratings during inspections in the 1980s. Following one inspection, the Inspector General team recommended all ANG units visit Chief Pino's exemplary organization. "We're ready for inspection *any day* because we're ready for inspection *every day*," Chief Pino said.

The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Chief Master Sergeant Domenic Pino over a military career that spanned nearly 40 years, reflect great credit upon himself, the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and truly warrant his induction into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.