

Chief Master Sergeant John Franklin Weiger is inducted into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame in recognition of his outstanding accomplishments and contributions to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard.

Chief Weiger enlisted in the U.S. Army Air Corps on 11 December 1941. During World War II, he served as a link training instructor until his separation from active duty on 7 December 1945.

In June 1947, Chief Weiger began his National Guard service by enlisting in the 212th Air Service Group, Spaatz Field, Reading, Pennsylvania, where he again served as a link training instructor, both as a guard member and an air technician. In this position, Chief Weiger was responsible for development of the initial ground instrument training for pilots entering the newly established flying unit.

With the activation of his unit for the Korean Conflict in 1951, Chief Weiger was called to active duty and assigned as an intelligence specialist at McGuire Air Force Base, New Jersey. After his release from active duty in October 1952, he returned to the Guard as a training specialist with the 148th Fighter Bomber Squadron. His enthusiasm and dedication in the development of overall training initiatives added greatly to the early success of his unit. In 1953, he became the 148th First Sergeant. In the assignment, he demonstrated a total involvement and commitment to the unit and its success, and he became established as the father figure for many young airmen in the unit.

Chief Weiger's career was characterized by his intense interest in the people with whom he worked. Each airman and officer was special to John. He kept his fellow Guard members in awe by his ability to recall not only their full names, but also their service numbers. He continually showed he cared about them and their careers.

Chief Weiger was assigned to the newly created position of Personnel and Training Superintendent and promoted to chief master sergeant in December 1962. His early contributions to this career field contributed to many of the personnel policies relating to assignments, promotion and recruiting that remain with us today.

Chief Weiger retired from the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in 1974. After a career characterized by many important contributions to the Guard, the Chief is best remembered for his spirit, his feelings for the people who worked with him, his loyalty and his devotion to duty. The Pennsylvania Air National Guard is better today because of the Chief's contributions, and each person who was touched by Chief Weiger became a better Guard member and a better person because of his influence. Chief Weiger's name was inscribed on the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's Memorial Roll of Honor when he died in December 1980.

Chief Master Sergeant John Franklin Weiger's dedicated service-reflects the highest traditions of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Chief Weiger reflect great credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and warrant his induction into the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame.