

Colonel George L. Spuhler 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 during a career that has spanned more than six decades.

Colonel Spuhler's military career began in March 1941, when he enlisted in the United States Army Air Corps. During World War II, he served in various enlisted assignments in the United States, Australia and New Guinea. In 1947, then Sergeant Spuhler joined the Pennsylvania Air National Guard as a first sergeant of the 148th Fighter Bomber Squadron. In 1948, he commenced a distinguished career as a commissioned officer characterized by a record of accomplishment in important and challenging assignments.

Colonel Spuhler is widely recognized as a founding father of the modern National Guard technician program. He was assigned to the National Guard Bureau as Chief of the Air Technician Branch and later as the first Chief, Office of Technician Personnel, a joint Army/Air National Guard function. His contributions to enactment of the National Guard Technician Act of 1968 and his development of policies, regulations and procedures that ensured successful implementation of the National Guard technician program were particularly noteworthy.

Colonel Spuhler later faced new challenges as the Chief of Plans and Programs for the USAF Accounting and Finance Center, Denver. In that assignment, he obtained approval for the design and construction of the new Accounting and Finance Center at Lowry AFB in record time. Colonel Spuhler completed his military career as Associate Director of the Department of Defense Study Group where he helped prepare an insightful study on full-time support for the selected reserve.

Colonel Spuhler continued his service to the National Guard, his state and the Nation even after his retirement from active duty and his promotion to the grade of Brigadier General on the Retired List of the Pennsylvania National Guard. He served as the first paid executive director of the National Guard Association of Pennsylvania and as legislative liaison for the Department of Military Affairs where he helped shepherd important Guard legislation through the Pennsylvania General Assembly. In 1988, Colonel Spuhler became chairman of the National Guard Association of the United States Retiree Task Force and was elected to the NGAUS Executive Board as the Air Retiree member. In that role, he has spearheaded, and continues to lead, efforts to gain improvements to the Survivor Benefit Program and other benefits for Guard members and retirees.

Colonel Spuhler's hard work and dedication during more the 50 years of service to his State and Nation reflect the highest traditions of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of Colonel Spuhler 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.