

Major General Frank H. Smoker, Jr. 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 as demonstrated by nearly fifty years of service to his country, his state and his community.

General Smoker's military career began in 1943 when he joined the U.S. Army Air Corps. As a B-17 navigator in the European Theatre during World War II, he flew 26 combat missions and more than 220 hours of combat. After World War II, General Smoker commenced a distinguished career in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard that included service with the 53rd Fighter Wing, the 112th Fighter Wing, and Headquarters, Pennsylvania Air National Guard. He completed and graduated from pilot training and flew T-6, F-51, C-45, C-47, C-121 and EC-121 aircraft with the Guard. He flew many overseas flights, including five airlift missions to Vietnam. General Smoker is one of the few airmen to be awarded three aeronautical ratings: Aircraft Observer, Navigator and Command Pilot.

General Smoker's remarkable service in Headquarters, Air National Guard has left a lasting imprint on the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. After being appointed as commander of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard, he was promoted to brigadier general in 1979 and to major general in 1981. He served as the Deputy Adjutant General for Air in the Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs. Among his many notable accomplishments were the design of the organizational emblem for Headquarters, Pennsylvania Air National Guard, his dedication in pursuing state and federal legislation to benefit the Guard's people and its programs and his leadership of a strong, mission-capable Guard force able to respond to contingencies across the globe. General Smoker combined qualities of innovation and attention to detail as he strived to have the Pennsylvania Air National Guard become and remain the best in the nation.

General Smoker's exemplary service was recognized by award of the Air Force Distinguished Service Medal, the highest peacetime decoration in the U.S. Air Force, as well as numerous other awards and decorations. He was particularly honored to receive Bronze Medallion of the Chapel of Four Chaplains and the Aaron and Hur Award by the Chief of Chaplains, U.S. Army. Upon his retirement in 1985, General Smoker was promoted to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

General Smoker's service to the Guard and his community did not end with his retirement. He continues to serve with great distinction on the board of directors of the Pennsylvania National Guard Scholarship Fund. He serves on the Military Affairs Committee of the Lebanon Valley Chamber of Commerce and on the Board of Directors of the United Way of Lebanon County. He has served as chairman and budget chairman of the Lebanon County Chapter of the Red Cross and is a merit badge advisor with the Boy Scouts of America. His service was recognized by the award of the Lebanon Lion's Club Good Neighbor Award for his unselfish commitment of time and service to aid local causes.

General Smoker's hard work and dedication during nearly fifty years of service to his Community, State and Nation reflect the highest traditions of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. The singularly distinctive accomplishments of General Smoker reflect great credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and warrant his induction in to the Pennsylvania National Guard Hall of Fame.