

Major General Richard B. Posey distinguished himself by making unique and exceptionally meritorious contributions to the Pennsylvania Air National Guard during a military career that spanned four decades.

After flying 22 B-17 combat missions in the European Theatre during World War II, General Posey returned to Pennsylvania to begin an illustrious career in the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. He was selected to serve as the squadron commander of the newly authorized 148th Fighter Squadron, Spaatz Field, Reading. He spearheaded an aggressive recruiting effort to build the new unit's strength to obtain federal recognition. As one of the training policies, operational concepts and safety programs.

General Posey's leadership touched every unit of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. He served as commander of the 112th Fighter Group. When the 111th Fighter Bomber Group was activated, General Posey was assigned as Group Commander. After his release from active duty, General Posey was instrumental in leading the Pennsylvania Air National Guard into the jet age. When Spaatz Field in Reading was designated as one of the first Air National Guard permanent field training sites in the nation, General Posey was assigned the full-time base Detachment and Permanent Field Training Site Commander, and he later served as full-time base Detachment Commander of the Pittsburgh Air National Guard Base.

In 1956, General Posey was appointed as Deputy Adjutant General for Air Affairs. In his new position, he continued to provide outstanding leadership. His superlative talents led state and federal authorities to call on him to undertake many important special projects including oversight of the transition of Olmstead Air Force base to civilian control, service as the Senior Air Force Reserve Forces member of the Total Force Study and as a key member of the National Guard Association Airlift Subcommittee.

From the inception of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard in 1946 until his retirement in 1978, General Posey's untiring efforts helped make the Pennsylvania Air Guard into one of the best in the nation. The long years of hard work and inspired dedication of General Posey earned him the title of "Father of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard." The singularly distinctive accomplishments of General Posey reflect the highest credit upon himself, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Air National Guard and make him truly deserving of induction as the first member of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard Hall of Fame recognized for lifetime service.