

Senior Master Sergeant James D. Fuchs 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 fifty-four years of service to his country, his state, and his community.

Sergeant Fuchs' military career began at the height of World War II when he volunteered for duty with the U.S. Navy in 1944. Serving in battles throughout the Pacific Theater as a landing ship Machinists Mate, he participated in the troop landing during the battle of Okinawa. Immediately following the war he participated in the occupation of Japan and was honorably discharged in May 1946.

In 1949, Jim Fuchs became a full-time member of the newly formed Air National Guard unit in Pittsburgh, enlisting as a Private. Initially performing duties as a Stock Records Clerk, he rapidly earned the rank and responsibilities of Warehouse Supervisor. Transferring to the Accounting and Finance Office, Jim gained the knowledge and experience needed to move from Greater Pittsburgh Airport to the position of Program System Officer with the United State Property and Fiscal Office, Fort Indiantown Gap. Two years later Sergeant Fuchs returned to Pittsburgh, and was assigned as the Accounting and Finance Superintendent. He later served in the position of Data Processing Center Supervisor. Sergeant Fuchs retired from the Technician program in 1984, but remained a Traditional Guardsman until 1986.

During Sergeant Fuchs' service with the Air National Guard, he volunteered to sit on several planning committees for the betterment of enlisted members morale and welfare. Sergeant Fuchs had initially become involved with the first Noncommissioned Officer Council for the State Headquarters, later drafting the charter for, and becoming a founding member of the 171st Wing Noncommissioned Officer Council. This council remains a viable activity for improving enlisted members' quality of life.

Upon retirement Sergeant Fuchs didn't consider his career with the Guard as complete. Almost immediately, Jim collaborated with a few other recently retired Guardsmen to form a Retirees Activity Office. He now directs a group of concerned retirees who have volunteered to continue providing support for their fellow, and near-future retired Guardsmen. During the past twelve years, Jim has remained actively involved with providing assistance to retired military members and their dependents. He and his office staff answer their own call to duty at least one day each week supporting the needs of retired veterans. They provide benefits and claims counseling, medical, and pharmacological scheduling, dissemination of information on congressional actions and many other topics that directly involve quality of life issues of veterans. Jim also conducts quarterly meetings, open to anyone with an interest in veteran affairs and benefits, as well as providing timely information and comfort to veterans survivors.

Senior Master Sergeant Fuchs' service and dedication to his Nation, his State, and his community reflect the highest traditions of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard. The distinctive accomplishments of Senior Master Sergeant Fuchs 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.