

Maj. Gen. John F. Hartranft  
(1839-1889)  
Inducted 2013

Brevet Major General John F. Hartranft served with great distinction in command at multiple levels in the U.S. Army during the Civil War. He was awarded the Medal of Honor, our Nation's highest award, for gallantry in action at the Battle of Bull Run.

He organized and trained the legendary 51st Pennsylvania Infantry Regiment, a unit that took part in more than 20 campaigns and battles in East and West theatres of operations. He personally led the 51st in their head-long assault over "Burnside's Bridge in the Battle of Antietam that stopped the Confederates in their tracks. As commander of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, IX Corps at Petersburg, he led the counterattack that defeated the last gasp attempt of the Army of Northern Virginia to break the siege. The Civil War ended less than a month later.

General Hartranft left the Army at the conclusion of the Civil War but continued his public service as Pennsylvania Auditor General (1867-1873) and the Governor (1873-1879). He returned to military service as a member of the Pennsylvania National Guard as commanding general of the Pennsylvania Division (today's 28th Division) in 1879, when an order from the Governor consolidated all forces of the Pennsylvania Army National Guard into one division. This gave Hartranft the recognition of the "Father of the modern Pennsylvania National Guard."

Hartranft served two terms as the 17th Governor of Pennsylvania. He was an advocate of education and fought corruption. He was an advocate of suffrage for African Americans. Hartranft's importance to the Commonwealth and Country is celebrated by the impressive equestrian statute in his honor on the grounds of the Pennsylvania Capitol Building in Harrisburg. He was a true patriot, soldier, and statesman.

The Hartranft section of North Philadelphia, and a street in the Packer Park section of South Philadelphia, are named in his honor. A residence hall at the University Park campus of Pennsylvania State University is named after him. Three avenues in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania are named in his honor. A street in the Brookline section of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania is also named after him.