

Maj. Gen. Gerald T. Sajer
USA, Ret.
Inducted 2010

Major General (Retired) Gerald T. Sajer was a Veteran of over 49 years of military service. As The 48th Adjutant General of Pennsylvania, he was instrumental in establishing and maintaining many valued programs for the Pennsylvania National Guard. During his tenure, Sajer fought to save force structure in the Army National Guard by maintaining all elements of the 28th Infantry Division within the borders of the Commonwealth and preventing the loss of a heavy brigade combat team. He was the lead in obtaining federal funding for the construction of a state-of-the-art education building for the PNG Military Academy in order to increase the student output for Officer Candidate School, Non-Commissioned Officer Schools and Military Occupational Specialty Schools within the Commonwealth. Sajer was instrumental in the growth of the Eastern Army Aviation Training Site, increased funding for infrastructure throughout the Commonwealth, laid the groundwork for the takeover of Fort Indiantown Gap from the Active Component and had the foresight for the beginning phases of Sergeant's Grove and what is now the Keystone Conference Center. Also during his tenure was a huge ramp expansion in Pittsburgh that enabled the Air National Guard base to become a double tanker unit with twenty (20) aircraft. In addition, Sajer worked very closely with state and federal legislators to improve benefits for Veterans and their Families.

Through Sajer's efforts with the state legislature and other Veterans' organizations, key legislation was drafted and enacted to the benefit of all military members and Families in the Commonwealth. One authorized the Pennsylvania National Guard Associations group life insurance program and provided other protections and benefits for Soldiers, Airmen and Families. During the first Persian Gulf Conflict (August 1990 to August 1991), Sajer led efforts to secure state legislation to provide enhanced legal protections and benefits for members of the reserve components and the Pennsylvania National Guard. Among the important provisions of this legislation were improvements to military leave, clarification of the prohibition against employment discrimination against military (Guard, Reserve, Active duty) personnel, civil relief protections for military personnel and one of the first laws to provide for educational leaves of absence for deployed personnel. Another program of note that General Sajer spearheaded was the Educational Assistance Program.

General Sajer also was an integral player in the improvement and development of care for all Veterans through the State Veterans' Home program, the establishment of the Gino Merli Veterans Center in Scranton, and provided the vision for the establishment of future Veterans' homes in Southwest (Pittsburgh) and Southeast (Spring City) PA