

LTC (PA) James J. Brennan
Inducted 2008

Lieutenant Colonel (PA) Joseph James Brennan personified the heart and soul of the Pennsylvania National Guard for over 43 years. He was an active member from 1932 until his retirement in 1976. He continued to support the institution as a Member of the "Old Guard" of the Second Regiment Infantry, N.G.P. (National Guard of Pennsylvania) until his death in October 2000. His long career began in November of 1932, when he enlisted in the 28th Field Artillery. He rose through the ranks before World War II and became a Master Sergeant. After he was mobilized he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant. He was awarded numerous decorations including the Silver Star and Purple Heart in the European Theatre while serving as a Liaison Pilot and an Artillery Observer. He was mobilized again for Europe from September 1950 to June 1952. Returning to the States, Brennan was made a Battery Commander and eventually became a Federal Technician. After serving as a Major for seven years, he ultimately finished his service as a Chief Warrant Officer 3 (CW3) and the Command Administrative Assistant for the 108th Combat Support Hospital.

Brennan was never one to seek the limelight. His greatest reward was that he knew his unit was ready to do its job---no matter who received the credit. Usually he accomplished this working behind the scenes, supporting several commanders and several units. His numerous accolades stand as a testament to their success. His prowess as a leader and a staff officer was instrumental in numerous unit transitions. His guidance and expertise carried the 108th Field Artillery from howitzers to rockets and ultimately into a Combat Support Hospital. Through numerous turnovers in personnel and units Brennan molded men into efficient productive teams that got the job done. To this day there are still Pennsylvania Guardsmen who can trace their performance and success back to lessons learned from Lieutenant Colonel Brennan. His selfless service is his legacy and will continue to impact the Pennsylvania National Guard.