

Biography

Chief Warrant Officer 5 (Ret) Richard A. Schaeffer Jr. Inducted 2017

Chief Warrant Officer 5 (Ret) Richard ‘Dick’ A. Schaeffer, Jr. has selflessly served the Pennsylvania National Guard and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania for over 50 years. He spent 44 years of those 50 years as a drilling soldier while also serving as a full time federal technician in roles of increasing responsibility within the logistic field.

He began his career as a private enlisting in the Army National Guard in August of 1964 where he served as an armorer, then as unit supply sergeant and finally as senior supply sergeant with the rank of sergeant first class. In 1983, then Staff Sgt. Schaeffer was appointed as a warrant officer in the Quartermaster Corps and served the next 26 years in positions of increasing responsibility both in the State Area Command/Joint Forces Headquarters as well the level serving as the property accountability warrant officer in the 337th Maintenance Battalion. When he retired as a chief warrant officer five in 2009, Schaeffer was the most senior logistical warrant officer and was the longest serving soldier in the entire Pennsylvania Army National Guard at the time of his retirement. He has been identified by many senior soldiers and officers as a key mentor to them and was instrumental in developing the Logistical Corps within the commonwealth, especially within the Warrant Officer Corps. After retiring, Schaeffer served an additional six years, until 2015, as a logistics contractor in support of the USPFO and Pennsylvania National Guard. In this role, he continued to serve and support the soldiers and airmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard.

Throughout his half century of service, Schaeffer was known for his management knowledge, expertise and mentorship evolving to a point where he knew most “everything” from the top of his head and knew almost “everybody” to make things happen quickly. He was in constant demand to help solve some of the most critical logistic issues confronting the commonwealth. Schaeffer’s efforts played large roles in the readiness and deployability of PAARNG units and through his efforts, ensured units deploying for both domestic operations and for actual combat operations beginning with the Gulf War, Balkan Conflict and current War on Terrorism were fully mission capable. It would not be stretch to say that Schaeffer’s efforts throughout 50 years of service saved many soldier’s lives by ensuring that our soldiers were equipped with the correct amount, the most modern and the safest equipment they needed and when they needed it.

Schaeffer resides in Annville, Pa. His wife Kathy passed away in 2016 after 51 years of marriage. He has two children, Richard A. Schaeffer of Lebanon and Theresa Battle of Annville.