

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA  
DEPARTMENT OF MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS  
**THE ADJUTANT GENERAL**  
ANNVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 17003-5002

**PERMANENT ORDERS 68-1**

**31 July 2002**

**AWARD OF THE PENNSYLVANIA MERITORIOUS SERVICE MEDAL**


By direction of the Governor, under the authority granted by Section 3701 of the Military Code, the Pennsylvania Meritorious Service Medal for meritorious service to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, is awarded to:

**REPRESENTATIVE PAUL W. SEMMEL**  
**PENNSYLVANIA GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**CITATION**

Representative Paul W. Semmel distinguished himself through exceptional meritorious service by his dedicated support of the soldiers and airmen of the Pennsylvania National Guard and Pennsylvania's 1.3 million veterans. His personal interest in the welfare of our veterans is most evident in his direct involvement in support of legislation that resulted in the increased pension for our blind and paralyzed veterans. He further supported legislation that criminalized the desecration of veteran's graves and as the Chairman of the House Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee was the leading force in acquiring funding for the Disabled American Veterans Transportation Program. Representative Semmel further distinguished himself as Chairman by being the prime sponsor of the Interstate Compact Act of 1999 and as co-sponsor of the Military Pay Protection Act of 2000. During his tenure as Chairman of the House Veteran's Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee he has contributed tireless effort and positive leadership so that proposed legislation dealing with veterans and National Guard issues received the early consideration of the committee, the assurance of final passage by the General Assembly and the approval of the Governor. Representative Paul W. Semmel's dedication, loyalty and steadfast support are in keeping with the highest traditions of public service and reflect great credit upon himself, the Pennsylvania General Assembly and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

**BY ORDER OF THE GOVERNOR:**

  
WILLIAM B. LYNCH  
Maj Gen, PaANG  
The Adjutant General