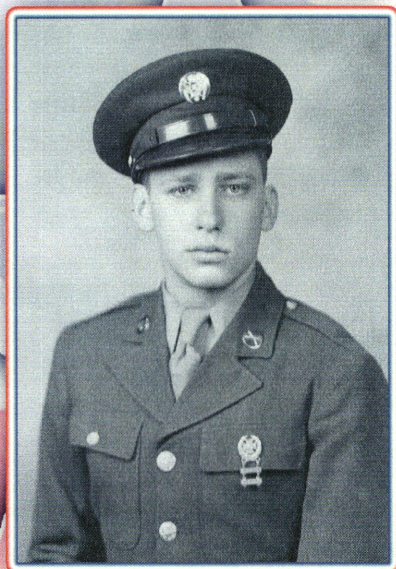


The Pennsylvania
House of Representatives
Honors



Cpl. Luke Levengood

for

Service to His Country
during World War II and the
Nuremberg War Crimes Trial

Today we honor one of our World War II veterans who played an important role in the Nuremberg Trials. The Trial of the Major War Criminals before the International Military Tribunal (IMT) was held from November 20, 1945, through October 1, 1946. Held at the Palace of Justice in Nuremberg, Germany, this court tried 24 of the most important captured officials of Nazi Germany, representing the leaders of the Third Reich. Nuremberg had been the headquarters for the Nazi operations during World War II. Lesser trials of war criminals were held in Nuremberg and other cities in Germany until 1949.

Private Luke Levensgood's assignment during the Trials was to escort the defendants, one by one, from their jail cell to Courtroom 600 where the proceedings took place. His job in the courtroom was to keep order as well as protect the defendants.

At 19 years old, this young man participated in an event on a world stage where, for the first time in history, an international tribunal worked together in the prosecution of those who conspired to commit heinous crimes against humanity.

“I felt that our presence there (Nuremberg) would indicate that nowhere in the world are we going to submit to a country that does not accept human rights.”

—PVT. LEVENGOOD



Private Luke Levensgood, 1945, standing (upper right) in front of the defendant's box at Nuremberg Trials.

PENNSYLVANIA DUTCHMAN HELPED DEFEND JUSTICE AT HISTORIC WAR CRIMINAL TRIALS

Luke Lee Levensgood had barely turned 18 years old when he enlisted in the United States Army in 1944. He left his home in Lebanon County, PA, for basic and advanced training and was assigned to the 709th Unit of the Military Police. He was deployed to the European Theater immediately following his 17-week training.

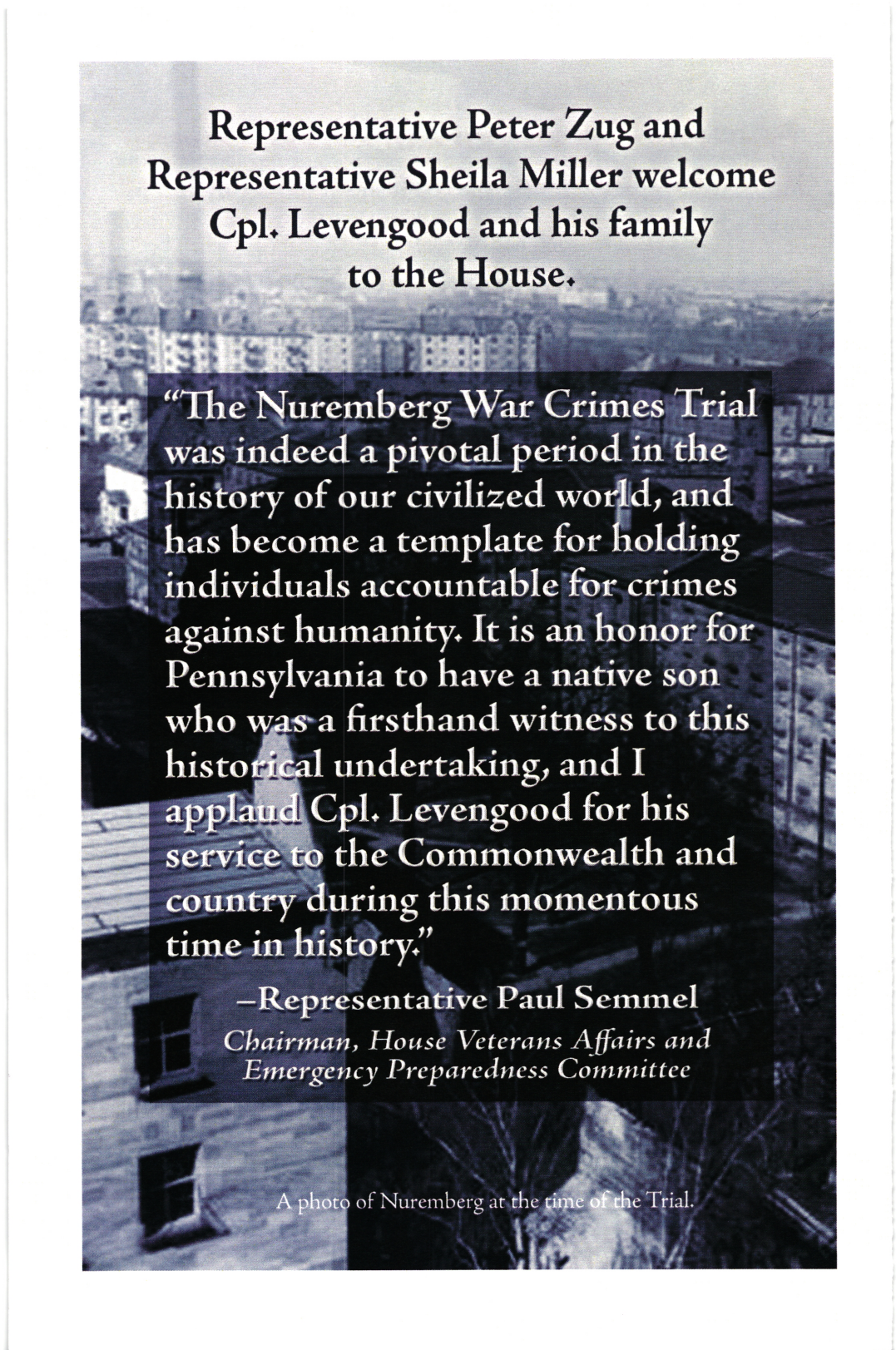
“I thought I had a job to do and that was to help our country end the war and be victorious.”

—PVT. LEVENGOOD

Private Levensgood landed in LeHavre in Normandy in the fall of 1944 and immediately faced fierce combat with the Germans in the Ardennes...the Battle of the Bulge. Although wounded in the leg by enemy shrapnel, Private Levensgood was able to remain on duty with his Military Police Unit. While on patrol in Bastogne, Private Levensgood was captured by a group of Germans impersonating American soldiers. He was incarcerated in a German POW camp west of Berlin known as Stalag III-D.

After liberation from the POW camp, Private Levensgood was ordered to Paris to guard the Eiffel Tower. This is where he was on VE Day, May 8, 1945, when the Allies formally celebrated the end of World War II. In November 1945, Private Levensgood became one of the select few Military Police chosen to guard the 22 Nazi defendants at the Nuremberg War Crimes Trial. His Pennsylvania Dutch background was an asset to Levensgood in his duties.

Corporal Levensgood was promoted after his outstanding service at the Trials and was honorably discharged in 1946. He was awarded a Purple Heart and Prisoner of War medal. Luke Levensgood returned home to Pennsylvania to work and live in his native Lebanon County, where he still resides. On August 17, 2006, this World War II hero will celebrate his 80th birthday.



Representative Peter Zug and
Representative Sheila Miller welcome
Cpl. Levensgood and his family
to the House.

“The Nuremberg War Crimes Trial was indeed a pivotal period in the history of our civilized world, and has become a template for holding individuals accountable for crimes against humanity. It is an honor for Pennsylvania to have a native son who was a firsthand witness to this historical undertaking, and I applaud Cpl. Levensgood for his service to the Commonwealth and country during this momentous time in history.”

—Representative Paul Semmel
*Chairman, House Veterans Affairs and
Emergency Preparedness Committee*

A photo of Nuremberg at the time of the Trial.

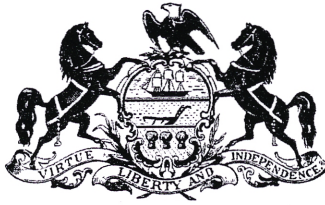
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MANAGEMENT AGENCY COUNCIL

June 21, 2006

Adjutant General Jessica Wright
Military and Veterans Affairs
Building 201 P-0-47
Fort Indiantown Gap
Annville, PA 17003-5002

Dear Adjutant General Wright:

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to the capitol on **Tuesday, June 27** as a special guest of the Veterans Affairs and Emergency Preparedness Committee and to offer words of praise on the house floor to Corporal Luke Lee Levensgood, a decorated WWII veteran who was one of the MPs at the Nuremburg Trials.

The 60th anniversary of the conclusion of those trials is October 2006, however due to Corporal Levensgood's health we felt it was fitting to honor him now instead of October. Corporal Levensgood will be coming to the capitol on this day with seven family members and friends and will be honored on the house floor.

It would be an honor if you would be able to participate in honoring Corporal Luke Lee Levensgood and meet with him, family and friends.

Please confirm your availability by calling my office at 787-3017 at your earliest convenience so that final arrangements can be made with the Speaker's office. Thank you.

Best regards,

PAUL W. SEMMEL
Majority Chairman
Veterans Affairs & Emergency
Preparedness Committee

PWS/prs