



Army of Occupation Medal



Steve Chwastiak
Technician 5, U.S. Army
11 December 1944 – 20 November 1946

Steve was born on 30 September 1926 in Frackville, Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania. In 1928 his family relocated from Frackville to Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania, where Steve attended grade school from 1932 to 1940. He then attended Emmaus High School in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, graduating in 1944. Steve was drafted into the Army as a Private on 11 December 1944 in Wilkes Barre, Pennsylvania. He was assigned to the Medical Detachment, 1st Infantry Regiment, and underwent training as a Dental Assistant before being sent overseas on 15 August 1945 to the Pacific Theater, where he served as a Dental Assistant in the Philippines with the Philippines Occupation Forces and in Korea with the Japan Occupation Forces. For his service, Steve received the Army of Occupation Forces Medal. Steve was discharged at Fort George G. Meade, Maryland, as a Technician 5 on 20 November 1946. He returned home to Lower Macungie Township and worked as a Dental Technician for Sandler Dental Laboratory in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for 36 years before retiring in 1982. Steve married **Pearl Koziar** (born 7 April 1929) on 2 September 1950 and they continued to live in Lower Macungie Township until 1954, when they moved to and settled in Emmaus. Steve and Pearl raised three children, two sons and a daughter. Steve died on 14 March 2006 in the Allentown Hospice and is buried in Solomon's United Church of Christ Cemetery in Macungie, Pennsylvania. Steve's parents were **John Chwastiak** (1895 – 1954) and **Mary Andruch** (5 August 1896 – October 1987).

July 20, 2006