



**Samuel Franklin Cornelius Kemmerer**  
**Colonel, U.S. Army**  
**9 December 1941 – 8 December 1946**

May 1985

Samuel was born on 1 November 1917 in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1-8 at Kempsville School near Kutztown, Pennsylvania, from 1923 to 1931, and graduated from Fleetwood High School in Fleetwood, Pennsylvania, in 1934. He then attended Kutztown College where he earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education in 1938, and began teaching elementary school in a one-room schoolhouse in Richmond Township, Pennsylvania, in Berks County until enlisting in the Army on 9 December 1941 in New Cumberland, Pennsylvania. He received basic Field Artillery training at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, after which he was assigned to D Battery, 228<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery, 29<sup>th</sup> Division, where he served as a Computer and Survey Man. He then attended Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, graduating and receiving a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the Field Artillery on 13 March 1943. From there he was assigned to Headquarters Battery, 932<sup>nd</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, at Camp Gruber, Oklahoma, as Motor Transport Officer. He left for the Mediterranean Theater on 21 August 1943, arriving in Italy on 3 September 1943 where he served with the Battalion in Italy during the Naples-Foggia and Rome-Arno Campaigns as Motor Transport Officer for four months and then as Assistant Communications Officer. After operations in Italy concluded, the Battalion deployed to the European Theater and took part in the Rhineland and Central Europe Campaigns (15 September 1944 – 11 May 1945). After Victory in Europe, Samuel remained there as part of the Allied Occupation Forces until 1 November 1945, when he left from Austria to return to the States on 14 November 1945. He returned to Fort Bragg where he was assigned as Chief, Small Arms Instructor, for two months before being reassigned as Chief, Weapons Department. He served in that capacity until his release from active duty at Fort Meade, Maryland, on 8 December 1946 and assignment to the Army Reserves. Samuel returned home to marry **Mary Louise Lichtenwalner** (24 December 1914 – 25 January 2002), who was also an elementary school teacher and had served in the Navy in the WAVES during the war. They were married on 21 December 1946 in Solomon's United Church of Christ (UCC) in Macungie, and established permanent residence in Lower Macungie Township. Samuel resumed teaching elementary school, this time for Washington Elementary School in Allentown, Pennsylvania, for 12 years. In 1958 he joined the East Penn School District where he was Principal of Washington, Jefferson, and Kings Highway Schools until his retirement in 1978. Samuel earned a Masters Degree in Education from Temple University in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1950. While in the Army Reserves, Samuel initially served as Commanding Officer, Battery B, 904<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion in Reading, Pennsylvania, and later as Commanding Officer, C Battery, 791<sup>st</sup> Field Artillery Battalion in Allentown. He also graduated from the Army Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and served in several other capacities including Instructor for the Reserve 205<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, and Assistant Operations Officer for the National Guard and Army Reserve Officers Training Corps at Lehigh University in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, and Lafayette College in Easton, Pennsylvania. After his promotion to Colonel in 1960, Samuel was assigned as Director, Command and General Staff College and the Industrial College of the Armed Forces in Washington, DC. He retired as a Colonel in 1974. Samuel and Mary had two children: **Kay Louise** and **Samuel David**. Samuel became active in several veteran and other patriotic activities in the Allentown area, including President of the Emmaus Flag Day Association in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, for 10 years. He was also active in church activities as Deacon, Elder, Sunday School Superintendent, and elected Delegate to the General Synod for Solomon's UCC. Samuel died on 13 May 1986. He is buried at Solomon's UCC in Macungie alongside Mary. Samuel's parents were **Samuel Yoder Kemmerer** (12 March 1891 – 1 October 1922) and **Anna Avada Berk** (8 January 1895 – 6 August 1954). Both are buried at Fairview Cemetery in Kutztown.