



Gunner's Mate Patch



Air Raid Warden Insignia

Paul Joseph Schellenberger
Seaman 1/C U.S. Navy
17 April 1944 – 9 May 1946

Paul was born on 9 May 1926 in Brookdale, Alburtis Route #1, in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. He attended grades 1–8 in Lower Macungie schools from 1932 to 1941, and attended Allentown High School for three years until 1944. Paul served his country on the home front during World War II as an Air Raid Warden from the age of 14 until he enlisted in the Navy on 17 April 1944. He underwent basic training as a Seaman Recruit and training for the Gunner's Mate rating at the Naval Training Center, Bainbridge, Maryland, until September 1944. His initial fleet assignment was aboard the auxiliary training ship *USS Wyoming (AG-18)* from September 1944 to May 1945. *USS Wyoming* had served as a battleship (*BB-32*) from 1910 to 1930, when she was converted to an auxiliary. She operated in the Chesapeake Bay region, training an estimated 35,000 gunners on some seven different types of guns. Just prior to Paul's reassignment to the destroyer escort *USS Sutton (DE-771)* in May 1945, *Sutton* was on patrol duty with a task group in Atlantic waters when she was dispatched to accept the surrender of the German submarine *U-234*, taking 37 of her crew aboard as prisoners and escorting them and the U-boat to Portsmouth, New Hampshire. Just after the surrender of *U-234*, Paul assumed his duties as Seaman/ Gunners Mate aboard the *Sutton*. The *Sutton* then operated along the East Coast, in the Gulf of Mexico, and in the Chesapeake Bay, conducting air/sea training operations. Paul served aboard the *USS Sutton* as a Seaman 1/C until his discharge on 9 May 1946.



USS Wyoming (AG-18)



USS Sutton (DE-771)

He then returned to Lower Macungie to work as a Millman for Merritt Lumber Company in Emmaus, Pennsylvania, until 1960, when he became a self-employed carpenter. After his discharge, Paul served in the Naval Reserves for four years. He also became active and remained active for a long time in several activities including Neffs United Church of Christ in Neffs, Pennsylvania; Western Lehigh Lions Club; Habitat for Humanity; Lehigh Valley Wood Turners; and Allentown Hiking Club. Paul became well known in the area for his portrayal of Abraham Lincoln at local military and patriotic events. He was made a lifetime honorary member of the Lower Macungie Township Historical Society (LMTHS) for volunteering scores of hours making repairs to and fabricating and installing millwork throughout the Wescosville Log House structure. He also became a member of the Honorary First Defenders and a life member of the Allentown Flag Day Association, the oldest Flag Day Association in the United States. Paul married **Lucille Hannah Sourwine** (31 March 1929 – 21 December 2003) in 1949. They lived in Whitehall, Pennsylvania, for about two years and in 1953 they settled in Lower Macungie Township in Wescosville. They had four children: **Eric, Judy, Donna,** and **Karen**. Paul's parents were **James Ash Schellenberger** (19 August 1893 – 23 September 1979) and **Anna Boyer** (25 July 1893 – 1 November 1978). Paul's sister, **Dorothy Rosa**, served in the Women's Army Corps during WW II.



At-sea surrender of *U-234* to *USS Sutton (DE-771)*

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