



Command Sergeant Major Pedro Calleja
U.S. Army, Korean War

CSM Pedro Calleja was inducted into the U.S. Army on July 24, 1952 and sent to 16 weeks of basic Infantry Training and 6 weeks of Leadership School at Fort Riley, Kansas. In February of 1953 Calleja arrived in Korea and was assigned to Company B, 17th Infantry Regiment of the 7th Infantry Division. In May he was attached to Company C of the Colombian Infantry Bn., from Columbia, South America and serving in the infamous Battle of Pork Chop Hill. The Battle of Pork Chop Hill was comprised of several related Korean War infantry battles during the spring and summer of 1953 between the U.S., Communist Chinese, Koreans and UN soldiers.

For duty in Korea, CSM Calleja was awarded the Combat Infantry Badge, Korean Service Medal with 2 Bronze Stars, United Nations Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Columbian Combat Infantry Badge.

After returning to Mercer County, CSM Calleja served 33 years in the Army Reserves at the Pendel-Caminiti Reserve Center in Farrell, PA where he held various positions from Squad Leader, Platoon Sgt., Training NCO, First Sergeant of the 858th Quarter Master Company and finishing his career as Command Sergeant Major of the 402nd Quarter Master Bn. He retired in 1987.

CSM Calleja and his wife, Margaret, have been married for 59 years. They are the proud parents of daughter Catherine Tinglum who is a retired Army Captain and her husband, Hillis, a retired LT. Col. from the Wisconsin National Guard; a daughter Lori Rendick who is a retired Army Master Sergeant and her husband, Gary. Calleja and his wife also have a son, Gary, a retired USAR Captain and his wife, Renee. The Calleja's oldest son, Raymond, an Army Sergeant, was killed in an accident at Fort Hood, Texas in 1978. The family is completed by a circle of nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren. Calleja is quoted as saying "We are a proud Army family".