

Eugene "Bud" Canada - Artillery OCS Class 12-52

Eugene "Bud" Canada was born in Hartshorne, Oklahoma. His family moved to Hot Springs, Arkansas where he grew up. He attended Hot Springs High School, graduating in 1954. While in high school he won the Golden Gloves of Arkansas, was a star on the football field and sold newspapers for spending money. He was offered a place on 20 college football programs but chose to attend the University of Arkansas. He was a four year football starter, four year Letterman in track, and a member of the 440-yard relay team that set a record that stood for 25 years. Canada was inducted into the University of Arkansas Football Hall of Fame and the Arkansas Sports Hall of fame.

He joined the Army and during the Korean war was a paratrooper. He served with the 419th Artillery, 82nd Airborne at Fort Bragg. He then served with United States Military Advisory Group to the Republic of Korea (KMAG) as a forward and aerial observer and was awarded the Bronze Star.

For 6 years he served as the sheriff for Garland County. The people of Arkansas sent him to the Arkansas Legislature for 32 years. Four years in the house (1959-1962) and 28 years in the Senate. He was elected to the Senate in 1972, and served until term limits ended his service.

The years in the Senate were spent trying to repeal the state tax on groceries. It became the passion of his service. Serving as a longtime chairman of the Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee. In 2007, After his retirement, the then Governor of Arkansas, Governor Beebe, reduced the grocery tax from 6 cents to 3 cents. Canada was there to see the Accomplishment of his life's work. He was at the signing ceremony and said it was like winning the Cotton Bowl. Later the tax was reduced again by a penny. Thus, slowly Canada's long fight is paying off. He retired as the president of an insurance company, finishing his long career history.