



**HONORABLE  
JAMES D. GRIFFIN**

**CLASS 11-52**

As a newly commissioned Second Lieutenant, Mr. Griffin first attended Airborne and Ranger Schools, before seeing combat in the Korean War with Company E, 50th Regimental Combat Team, where he earned the Combat Infantryman Badge and the Korean Service Medal.

Mr. Griffin returned to civilian life after the War and became an engineer for the Buffalo Creek New York Railroad, and later used his G.I. Bill benefits to attend Erie County Technical Institute to study metallurgy.

Mr. Griffin became involved in politics, serving two terms as the Ellicott District Councilman before being elected as New York State Senator in 1967. During his ten years as State Senator, he sponsored amendments for special medical cases for people on Medicaid, and introduced a bill that would have required firing pins to be removed from guns displayed in stores for sale. He also continued a fight for a no-fault auto insurance program.

He was overwhelmingly elected Mayor of Buffalo, New York in 1977, and served in that capacity for sixteen years. He was the first Buffalo Mayor in history to serve four consecutive four year terms. A political legend in the community, Mr. Griffin continues to remain active, focusing on improving the quality of life of Buffalo's citizens. He most recently served as the South District representative of the Common Council, City of Buffalo until March 2005.