

The Honorable William Shelton Morris (Class 26-42)

William Shelton Morris was born in Higginsville, Missouri on November 8, 1919. He was elected the 39th Lieutenant Governor of Missouri as a Democrat in 1968. He served from January 1969 to January 1973 under Governor Warren Hearnes. The office of Lieutenant Governor serves as president of the Missouri Senate.

He was appointed Public Administrator of Jackson County, Missouri by Missouri Governor John M. Dalton. He served as the vice-chairman of the Missouri State Democratic Party, and chairman of the Kansas City Election Board. He was the director of the Chamber of Commerce for his city.

He is most well-known for his lifelong work as a public servant to help the betterment of his fellow man. His character and moral clarity, as well as service and sacrifice, survive to this day in letters to town halls to videos that have inspired others. A man who saw service as a responsibility, kindness as the noblest of virtues a man can possess.

Morris was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation from the Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma on August 18, 1942. He attained the rank of Major with the U.S. Army 53rd Field Artillery and the 6th Infantry Division during 31 months in the Pacific during World War II. He was a recipient of the Silver Star, the Bronze Star and the Air Medal.

He was a graduate of the Wentworth Military Academy at Lexington, Missouri. He earned a law degree from the University of Kansas City in 1948. He was a partner in the Kansas City law firm of Morris and Foust. Morris was an owner of the Kansas City Area Transportation Authority prior to its sale to the City of Kansas City.

From 1946 to 1957, he was involved in the banking sector, as the vice president of the Union National Bank of Kansas City, Missouri.

A director of three corporations, he was the vice president and managing director of the Hotel Phillips in Kansas City in 1959. He was a member of the board of directors of the Westgate California Corporation of the Kansas City Transit, Inc., and the Wilcox Electric Company.

Morris was also president and founder of the Kansas City Blues Hockey Club in 1967, the top minor league affiliate of the National Hockey League's St. Louis Blues.