



HONORABLE FRANK E. SMITH

CLASS 26-42

His initial assignment was to the 234th Field Artillery at Camp Shelby, Mississippi where the unit was activated and then shipped to Europe. He served there during World War II as a Fire Direction Officer, was promoted to Captain and awarded the Bronze Star.

He returned to Mississippi and was instrumental in the founding of the Morning Star newspaper in Greenwood, Mississippi. He reported on foreign affairs and encouraged Mississippians not to fall prey to isolationism and to not withdraw from the America's progress toward recognizing the rights of minorities. After being elected to the United States Congress, he worked quietly for integration during six terms and supported John F Kennedy for president. He eventually lost his congressional seat and was later appointed by President Kennedy to the governing board of the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) where he served until 1972.

He later worked with the Southern Regional Council and the Voter Education Project to register Black voters throughout the South. As he struggled for racial progress and understanding he rejected the Black Power Movement, which he denounced as racism. That position and his refusal to support environmental extremists of the Democratic Party eventually put him at odds with his liberal base.

He left politics for a time and accepted various academic posts around the country. His political career culminated as a special assistant to Mississippi Governor William F Winter until 1982. He was later elected President of the Mississippi Historical Society.