

LTC Earl E. Strayhorn (Class 21-42)

Judge Earl Edward Strayhorn was born on April 24, 1918, in Columbus, Mississippi to Minnie Lee Orvis Strayhorn and Earl Edward Strayhorn, Sr. He graduated from Tilden Tech High School in Chicago in 1936. Strayhorn received an A.B. degree from the University of Illinois in 1941 and his J.D. degree from DePaul University Law School in 1948.

He enlisted on October 15, 1941 and rose to the rank of Sergeant before attending Field Artillery Officer Candidate School at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant upon graduation on July 14, 1942.

He served with the 600th Field Artillery in Italy during World War II. He served with the Illinois National Guard as a battery commander and later battalion commander in the 184th Field Artillery and as Battalion Commander in the 178th Infantry. He rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the National Guard, serving in an Infantry unit from

From 1949 until 1952, Strayhorn worked as a prosecuting assistant state's attorney for Cook County, Illinois. From 1952 until 1970, he had his own practice while serving as Chicago civil service commissioner between 1959 and 1963. In 1970, he became a Cook County Circuit Court judge, serving for twenty-eight years in the administrative offices of the Illinois courts. Known for his independent thinking and his unique sense of justice, Strayhorn was well respected for his no-nonsense style in the courtroom. From 1995 until he retired in 1998, he headed the county court system's largest section, the First Municipal Division.

Strayhorn taught law classes at numerous colleges and universities, including Northwestern University School of Law, Harvard Law School, Emory University College of Law, the National College of Criminal Defense Attorneys, Cardozo School of Law and the National Institute of Trial Advocacy. Strayhorn served as vice president of the Chicago Urban League from 1948 until 1960 and has been on the boards of many organizations. He was a member of the NAACP and was parliamentarian for Tuskegee Airmen, Inc. from 1985 to 1994.

U.S., Select Military Registers, 1862-1985

National Guard > 1967

STRAYHORN, Earl E Ill 01166846 B-Miss 24 Apr 18 BA Univ
of Ill 41 Grad FA Sch Off Motor Crse 43 Arty Sch Assoc Off
Adv Crse 51 (E-Enl 15 Oct 41 to 20 Jul 42 2 lt FA 21 Jul 42
to 1 lt 15 Feb 46) (ORC FA 1 lt 28 Nov 45 to 6 Jul 48) 1 lt
FA 17 Feb 48 to capt 9 June 52 (NGUS Arty capt 10 June 52 to
7 Jul 52) (AUS inact status 1 lt Arty 8 Jul 52 to 1 Apr 53)
capt Arty 21 Apr 53 lt col Inf 21 Apr 66