

THE HONORABLE JOHN PAUL HAMMERSCHMIDT

MEMBER OF CONGRESS

JANUARY 3, 1967 - JANUARY 3, 1993

Congressman John Paul Hammerschmidt represented the Third District of Arkansas in the U.S. House of Representatives for 13 terms during the administrations of six presidents. By profession a lumberman, builder, and building supplies businessman for 20 years before seeking public office, he is a native of Harrison, where he continues to reside.

Since retiring from Congress, he has continued to be involved in many civic activities as a private citizen, chairing the Northwest Arkansas Council, the March of Dimes Arkansas Citizen of the Year Dinner, and the Governor's Citizens Council on Highways and Transportation. He served on the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care for our Nation's Veterans, the Congressional Medal of Honor Commission, and the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. Senior board chairman of First Federal Bank of Arkansas, he is a former board member of three other Arkansas-based corporations (Dillard's, Southwestern Energy, and American Freightways).

He also sponsors the John Paul Hammerschmidt Lecture Series, inviting national experts to speak about topics of interest to the people of northern Arkansas.

During his years in Congress, John Paul Hammerschmidt became well known for his attention to individual constituent service and communication; his high voting and attendance records at Congressional sessions during the business week, plus routine working -weekends in Arkansas; and his legislative expertise in highway, -airway, and water infrastructure and veteran's matters. Arkansas highways, airports, water supply and distribution systems, and veteran's hospitals - and their users - will continue to benefit from his diligent stewardship long into the future. Among his many accomplishments in public office, Congressman Hammerschmidt was the author and initiating sponsor of the Public Law preserving the Buffalo River as a free-flowing stream, adding it to the National Park System in 1972.

A combat pilot in World War II, Hammerschmidt flew 217 missions with the Third Combat Cargo Group in the China-Burma-India theatre. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross with three oak leaf clusters, the Air Medal with four oak leaf clusters, three Battle Stars, the China War Memorial Medal (by the Republic of China), and the Meritorious Service Award. He retired from the Air Force reserve as a major. He has been awarded highest honors by eight national veterans' service organizations.

Congressman Hammerschmidt has an office at North Arkansas College, and many of his photographs, awards, and other memorabilia are on display in the building that bears his name.