



Charles C. "Buddy" Campbell was born in 1923. He died in 2003 at the age of 79.

In World War II, he enlisted in the United States Navy. He served on a United States Navy aircraft carrier as a pilot flying the TBM Avenger Torpedo plane. He participated in the campaigns of Lingayen Gulf (Philippines), Iwo Jima, and Okinawa and was awarded the Air Medal with two clusters. Upon return to civilian life, he maintained activity in the Naval Air Reserve as a weekend warrior from 1946 to 1962 and retired at the rank of Commander, U.S.N.R.-R.

Buddy had a distinguished career in insurance for 45 years. He started as a traveling insurance salesman in 1946, leaving on Monday morning and returning on Friday evening. He later joined Rebsamen and East Insurance before transitioning to Rebsamen Insurance. At his retirement in 1991, he was Executive Vice-President of Rebsamen Insurance, having helped the company become a regional force in the insurance industry.

Buddy held many positions in the Arkansas Association of Insurance Agents and in 1973 was the Association's recipient of the prestigious Allan Kennedy Memorial Award. He served on the national committee of the Insurance Services Office responsible for policy forms and endorsements. He also served as President of Intersure, a group of large agencies in the United States, Canada, England, and Puerto Rico. He always conveyed to his customers and the public at large that insurance agents were not "salespersons," but honest, trustworthy, and knowledgeable individuals who were critical to the planning and understanding of a customer's actual insurance needs.

In addition to an active business life, Buddy devoted much time to volunteer work. He joined the Optimist Club of Greater Little Rock in 1956 and, despite his work, family, and church demands, never gave less than 100% to that wonderful organization. He served in most positions of the local club and the Arkansas District, including governor. In 1970, he was elected International President of Optimist International, leading over 3,000 clubs and 105,000 members. He was also the Charter President of the Optimist International Foundation, a foundation he worked tirelessly to make a reality.

Buddy was also a member of the Board of Directors of the Little Rock Boys and Girls Clubs for 26 years and served as President in 1974. In 1976, he served as General Chairman for fund raising for the new Billy Mitchell and James Penick Boys and Girls Clubs. His persistence and "never say die" attitude helped ensure that these facilities became a reality.

In 2011, Buddy was honored, posthumously, with a very special and well-placed plaque at the entrance of the Ferncliff youth facilities. The plaque reads as follows: "In Memory, Charles 'Buddy' Campbell, Former Optimist International President, Ever Grateful for his Time at Ferncliff."

Buddy somehow found enough “spare” time to work many years with Presbyterian Village, Evergreen Facilities, the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce, the Salvation Army, and the United Way Campaigns.

In one of his motivational lessons, Zig Ziglar explained that the six foundation stones for true success are “honesty, character, integrity, faith, love, and loyalty.” If that is true, Buddy’s family, friends, and customers will attest that he was, without question or dissent, a most successful person. Buddy will continue to be missed in an age where he, and people like him, are often difficult to find.

Finally, his four children (Terri, Chuck, Phil, and Pam) and their spouses, his many grandchildren and their spouses, and his budding number of great grandchildren, thank the Arkansas Insurance Hall of Fame from the bottom of their hearts for this thoughtful and meaningful award. His wonderful wife of 53 years, Johnsy Campbell, only missed this honor by two years. By Buddy’s side for over one-half of a century, this award would have meant the world to her. Given their devotion to each other and to their religion, we suspect that Buddy and Johnsy can now celebrate the award together.

#### **Professional Contributions and Recognitions in the Workplace and Industry:**

- Distinguished career in insurance for 45 years.
- Worked for Rebsamen & East and Rebsamen Insurance. At his retirement in 1991, he was Executive Vice-President of Rebsamen Insurance.
- Multiple positions in the Arkansas Association of Insurance Agents.
- Recipient of the prestigious Allan Kennedy Memorial Award from the Arkansas Association of Insurance Agents in 1973.
- Served on Insurance Services Office national committee responsible for policy forms and endorsements.
- Served as President of Intersure, a group of large agencies in the United States, Canada, England, and Puerto Rico.

#### **Service to his Country:**

- World War II United States Navy aircraft carrier pilot, serving in the campaigns of Lingayen Gulf (Philippines), Iwo Jima, and Okinawa.
- Awarded the Air Medal with two clusters.

- Naval Air Reserve from 1946 to 1962.
- Retired at the rank of Commander, U.S.N.R.-R.

**Community Service:**

- Joined the Optimist Club of Greater Little Rock in 1956.
- Served in most positions of the local club and the Arkansas District, including governor.
- Elected International President of Optimist International, leading over 3,000 clubs and 105,000 members, in 1970.
- Charter President of the Optimist International Foundation.
- Member of the Board of Directors of the Little Rock Boys and Girls Clubs for 26 years
- President of the Board of Directors of the Little Rock Boys and Girls Club in 1974.
- General Chairman for fund raising for the new Billy Mitchell and James Penick Boys and Girls Clubs in 1976.
- Active supporter of Presbyterian Village.
- Active supporter of Evergreen Facilities.
- Active supporter of the Little Rock Chamber of Commerce.
- Active supporter of the Salvation Army.
- Active supporter of the United Way Campaigns.