

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Eugene A. Chappie was born March 28, 1920 in Sacramento, California. He graduated from high school in Sacramento in 1938. Mr. Chappie held a number of jobs before entering military service in 1941, serving in the army air corps until 1946 and rising to the rank of captain. From 1947 until 1975 he operated a diversified farm (grapes, plums, cherries, pecans, filberts and cattle) in Cool, California.

In 1950 Mr. Chappie was appointed to a vacant seat on the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors by Governor Earl Warren. He served on the board until January 1965 when he entered the California Assembly as the elected member for the Sixth District. While a member of the assembly Mr. Chappie though a Republican served as chair of the Welfare Committee from 1967-1969. During that period major changes were made in the state's welfare system including tying welfare payments to the cost of living index, requiring the state to set reform standards for welfare in all counties as well as bringing all local government welfare workers under the state's personnel merit system. When the Republicans gained control of the assembly in the 1968 election, Chappie was appointed chair of the Rules Committee and served in that position in the 1969-1971 term. During this period the Rules Committee was a housekeeping committee rather than the key committee in determining the flow of legislation that it has subsequently become. During a period in the 1970s he also served as assembly Republican caucus chairman.

During his tenure in the legislature Mr. Chappie pioneered legislation in the area of elementary architectural barriers for the handicapped. Other important legislation with a more direct bearing on his district authored by Chappie included legislation regulating the safety and use of snowmobiles and efforts to introduce planning concepts into the Lake Tahoe basin.

Mr. Chappie has also served on various boards and commissions. President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the President's Architectural Transportation Barrier Control Board. At the state of California level he has served on the Commission on the Status of Women, the Commission of the Californias and The Heritage Preservation Commission.

In 1980 Mr. Chappie was elected to the United States House of Representatives. During his six years in the house he served on the Agriculture Committee, the Small Business Committee, the Merchant Marine and Fisheries Committee and the Select Committee on Drugs and Narcotics Abuse. Chappie decided not to run for reelection to the house in 1986.

After leaving the U.S. House of Representatives he was a political consultant for the national public relations and political consulting firm of Flashman-Hillard.

In 1988 Governor George Deukmejian appointed him to fill a vacancy on the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors. In his only election loss, Mr. Chappie was defeated when he ran for a full term on the board in 1990. After an active retirement in Georgetown, California, Mr. Chappie died on May 31, 1992.