



Bill Buford is from Kansas City, Kansas. He has had a distinguished career of service. Before his service he attended Kansas University on a football scholarship. He then transferred to Kansas State Teachers College in 1968 and graduated in January, 1970, with a Bachelor of Science in Education Degree.

1964 - 1965 served with the 6th Special Forces Group his time was spent in training Army Infantry Units. In this time he instructed the Alaskan National Guard and native Eskimos in the identification of Russian naval ships and the use of complex radio systems.

1965-1966 he served with the 5th Special Forces Group in Vietnam. As a member of an "A" team involved in the training of Montagnard Tribesmen.

In 1971 he went to work for the U. S. Treasury Department, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms (ATF) as a Special Agent in Tulsa, Oklahoma and worked extensively in undercover and bombing investigations, leading the State in number of investigations opened and number of cases submitted for prosecution.

He came to Little Rock, Arkansas in 1976 as the Resident Agent in Charge of ATF for the State of Arkansas, a position he held until September 2001. As RAC, Arkansas led the New Orleans Field Division in number of investigations opened and number of cases submitted for prosecution. He held numerous positions within ATF.

From, 2004-2010, he was employed by the Arkansas State Police as the Bomb Squad Coordinator. In this role he was responsible for developing the bomb squad, training personnel and acquiring the equipment necessary to bring the squad to National Certification.

It should be no surprise to everyone in this room that although he retired before 9/11 our honoree petitioned to be reinstated after that tragic event of that day. After retiring from ATF he served as a contract instructor at the ATF National Academy teaching various explosives courses.

Through his years of service he has received Numerous Special Achievement Awards to name a few; High Quality Pay Increase; 3 Suggestion Awards; Medal of Valor; Gold Star; for wounds received in a hostile action, Hostile Action Award.

His military awards and decorations include, Bronze Star; Purple Heart; Combat Medical Badge; Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry; Master Parachutist Badge; Good Conduct Medal; National Defense Service Medal; Vietnam Service Medal; Vietnam Campaign Medal; Army Achievement Medal and various other U.S. and foreign decorations.

He was an active member of International Association of Bomb Technicians and Investigators;
National Tactical Officers Association; International Association of Chiefs of Police

He is a true civic leader. He is one of the reasons we are here today celebrating 30 years of the Law Enforcement Torch Run for Special Olympics Arkansas. He served as the State Director for seventeen years. Many people still actively involved today will tell you he is the person that brought them into the organization. He led by example and spent his time in Arkansas growing this program to what you see today. Bill also served Law Enforcement Torch Run globally on the International Executive Council. He represented Arkansas well for thirty years. He will tell you it was all for the athletes. They motivated him to lead our movement. They are the reason for the success.