

BIOGRAPHY

CHARLES J. CONRAD

1981

Now in retirement, Charles J. Conrad served 26 years as a member of the California State Assembly, besides working in the motion picture and television industries.

Born in Philadelphia, a descendant of James Wilson, signer of the Declaration of Independence, Charles J. Conrad graduated from the Central High School there as a member of the 150th Class. Then entered the Wharton School, of the University of Pennsylvania but, during the depression era, left college to become assistant stage manager for a theatrical producer.

After a number of engagements on Broadway, the road and in stock companies, he was brought to Hollywood in 1935. There Conrad became active in Republican politics. He was first elected to the Los Angeles County Republican Central Committee in 1938, also serving as President of the Hollywood Republican Assembly from 1938 until 1941.

In World War II, Conrad served in the South Pacific Theatre, as Chemical Warfare specialist, aboard Group 21 LSTs, a part of the 7th Amphibious Force. Some years after the war, he became a part of "Operation Blue Skies," urging the United States to retain a strong posture in chemical, biological and radiological weapons.

Upon discharge from the armed forces, Conrad was nominated by the Republican Party to run for the California state legislature from the Hollywood area and was elected in 1946, beginning thirteen successive terms.

Until the state legislature became a full time occupation in the mid 1960s, Conrad continued to work in motion pictures and television.

In his legislative career, Charles J. Conrad was twice elected Speaker pro Tempore of the Assembly and served a term as Minority Floor Leader. In 1972 Conrad served, briefly, as Chairman of the Governing Board of the Council of State Governments, having previously been elected President of the Western Conference of the Council of State Governments. He was the first Californian ever elected to those positions.

He has been a member of five California delegations to the Republican National Convention (1948, 1952, 1956, 1968 and 1972). He was a Presidential Elector in 1972.

A member of the American Revolution Bicentennial Commission of California since its inception in 1968, Charles J. Conrad also served as its Chairman from 1968 to 1972.

From December 1973 until January 1975, Conrad was Chairman of the State Air Resources Board.

He is a member of the American Legion, American Veterans of World War II (AMVETS), Congregational Church, Masonic Lodge and holds the Legion of Honor of the Order of DeMolay.

Conrad is married to the former Grace Odell. They now make their home at 346 Camino Dos Palos, Thousand Oaks, California, 91360