



Harold A. "Porky" Patten '30

Has been elected to membership in the

Beta Phi Hall of Honor Class of 2003

Brother Patten came to Tucson from his birthplace in Husted, Colorado in 1916. After completing middle and high school, he entered the University of Arizona.

Upon graduation in 1930, he became a physical education teacher and coach at Tucson High School where he served from 1931 until 1932.

From 1933 through 1939, Brother Patten served as Director of Recreation for the City of Tucson and the Tucson Public School System. In 1939 he was appointed the State of Arizona Director of Recreation where he served through 1940.

In August of 1940, Brother Patten entered military service in the United States Army with the Seventh Cavalry Regiment as a First Lieutenant. He later transferred to the Army Air Corps in 1941 and spent thirty-one months overseas in Africa and Italy. He was discharged as a Major on November 21, 1945 at the end of WWII. He then served in the Air Force Reserve until he retired as a Lieutenant Colonel on July 1, 1960.

He worked in the insurance profession as an agent in Phoenix, Arizona from 1946 until 1948.

Brother Patten was elected to the United States Congress as an At-Large Democratic Member from 1949 through 1951. He then represented the 2nd Congressional District for Arizona from 1951 until 1955.

Upon leaving public office in 1955, he resumed his insurance career in Phoenix, Arizona. In 1965 he was appointed to head a Federal Job Corps Center in Oregon where he organized and directed the Wildlife Center at Malheur Wildlife Refuge and was the Director of Central Offices in Portland, Oregon.

Brother Patten died in Tucson, Arizona on September 6, 1969 and willed his body to the University of Arizona College of Medicine for research purposes.

Throughout his life, Brother Patten expressed his deep appreciation for the ideals, ritual, and brotherhood of Sigma Chi. He stated on many occasions that although he and Brother Goldwater shared vastly differing political views, they enjoyed and found strong common ground in the bonds of Sigma Chi Fraternity.