

Colonel Robert Chant

Government



Robert Chant graduated from Collinwood in January 1949. After attending East Clark Elementary School, in Cleveland, Ohio, Robert was enrolled in the “big school” at five points. Walking from Pepper Avenue to Collinwood High School was a new experience especially on cold, snowy mornings with the wind blowing off Lake Erie. Throughout Collinwood school experience, he almost always had a part time job. He worked as a paper boy for The Cleveland Press, a pin setter at Collinwood Bowling Lanes, and plucked chickens at Collinwood Poultry, just to name a few. He was an athlete, and enjoyed playing football in his early years, and although he was not the largest player on the field, his talent and determination kept him playing throughout his tenure at CHS. His tenacity paid off as, under the guidance of Coach Urban Vaccariello, Robert earned a scholarship to Western Michigan University, Kalamazoo, Michigan.

As the Korean Conflict heated up in 1950, Robert found himself, as did all athletes on scholarship, enrolled in the newly-formed Reserve Training Corps (RGTG). He enjoyed the physical challenge of ROTC, and served as Battalion Commander, graduating in 1954 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Education and a Distinguished Military Student Award, which earned him his first commission as a Regular Army Officer.

The commission was the beginning of a long and distinguished military career that took him from Germany, to Vietnam, to the Pentagon. During his twenty-five years in the military, Robert has served with four different types of Army divisions (Airborne, Airmobile, Infantry, and Mechanized) in various command/staff positions. His specialized military training includes basic Artillery, Logistics, Teaching, Management, and Comptrollership as well as Airborne, Ranger and Parachute Packing, Maintenance and Air Delivery. Among his many awards and honors are the Bronze Star and the Cross of Gallantry with Palm. While busy serving his country, he still found time to complete his Masters of Science Degree at Michigan State University and taught Military Science there for many years. Robert attributes much of his success in life to the lessons in "good citizenship" that he learned at Collinwood High School.

Colonel Chant is married to the former Sally Daugherty of Monongahela, Pennsylvania. They have two daughters, Lisa and Tara.