

Bob Stone attended Murphy High School and only had eleven years of school. He was up at 4:30 a.m. to deliver the Mobile Press Register on his bicycle before attending school each day. He was very active during his three years at Murphy. He was a class representative to the student council, a lunch room worker, an honor student, member of the Mohian Staff, and a member of the National Honor Society.

After graduation in 1950, he was only seventeen years old. He attended Gulf Coast Junior College and at age 18 he enlisted in the United State Air Force, following in his father's footsteps who had been in the army and was wounded during WWI.

Bob spent 28 years in the Air Force as a Jet Fighter pilot earning command Pilot Wings. He participated in several combat missions, the Bay of Pigs in Cuba and tour of duty in Vietnam. He was shot down, after ten months of duty, on July 2, 1967, south of Hanoi. He was rescued but critically wounded. He spent three and a half years in and out of hospitals. He then returned to Vietnam for a tour of duty in 1973. He was promoted to the rank of Colonel in charge of several command missions. He received many medals including the Purple Heart, Distinguished Flying Cross, air Medals, and Legion of Merit. He is a graduate of the University of Maryland and has a master's degree from Oklahoma University.

After retiring from the Air Force in August of 1979, he went to work for the State of Alabama in Industrial Training. He developed training programs and implemented them throughout the state. He trained supervisors and middle management to serve in state industry. His programs were very successful. For seven years, thousands were trained in Huntsville and north of Interstate 20 in industrial plants. He also trained and implemented many industrial programs for Southwest State Jr. College in the Mobile area.

After 12 years, Col. Stone was transferred to Central Alabama Community College to develop programs and training for Russell Mills. This company was the largest employer in Central Alabama and was in great need of trained workers.

Col. Stone also worked with the community to establish Leadership Tallapoosa County. This program provides people a year long educational program in leadership, state, and local government, education, health and human services. This program is still in operation today.

Bob continues to be active in Alexander City. He has served many years in Kiwanis, First Methodist Church as a Sunday School teacher, and on the administrative board as Directory of Finance. For over fifteen years, he was very involved in the prison ministry for the Talladega Federal Prison. He also served for over twenty years in the Emmaus Community for North Alabama.

In his eighty-six years, since the age of 18, Col. Stone has served his country, community, and church. He has been dedicated to serving and being an outstanding and productive citizen. He was chosen Alexander City's hero to carry the 1996 Olympic torch. An American flag has been dedicated to him that flies in the center of the city.

Bob is the husband of the former Dell Mitchell Stone, class of 1950. He is the father of two sons, and a daughter, seven grandchildren, and 15 great-grandchildren.

For a poor depression boy from a large family of five brothers, and one sister, Colonel Robert Stone has been a proud and productive American citizen and we welcome him to the MAA Hall of Fame.