Richard J. Chamier Papers
(C4379)

Collection Number: C4379

Collection Title: Richard J. Chamier Papers

Dates: 1932-1974

Creator: Chamier, Richard J., 1910-1984

Abstract: Military, political, legislative and civic work of a former Lt. Colonel in the U.S. Army in World War II, Missouri State Senator, and Associate Circuit Judge of Randolph County. Correspondence, photographs, and newspaper clippings, including campaigns for State Senator in 1948 and 1952. Also clippings on speeches and legislative bills to update Missouri criminal codes, and service with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

Collection Size: 1.8 cubic feet
(74 folders)

Language: Collection materials are in English.

Repository: The State Historical Society of Missouri

Restrictions on Access: Collection is open for research. Collections may be viewed at any research center. This collection is stored off site. Please provide us at least two days advance notice if you would like to research this collection. Call 573-882-1187, or e-mail us at research@shsmo.org.

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Preferred Citation: [Specific item; box number; folder number] Richard J. Chamier Papers (C4379); The State Historical Society of Missouri Research Center-Columbia [after first mention may be abbreviated to SHSMO-Columbia].

Donor Information: The papers were donated to the University of Missouri by Elizabeth W. Chamier on November 1, 1998 (Accession No. 5786).

Processed by: Processed by John Konzal, March 7, 2019
Richard J. Chamier Papers

Historical Note:

Richard Jeffries Chamier was born in Moberly, Randolph County, Missouri, on June 22, 1910, to Arthur Berger Chamier and Lulu Mae Jeffries Chamier. He attended the University of Missouri and graduated from the law school there in 1933. He returned to Moberly to practice law in the firm of Hunter and Chamier, then made up of Oak Hunter and Arthur B. Chamier, his father, who had started the firm in 1911. Richard Chamier practiced with them until the other members died, with the exception of the time he spent in military service during the Second World War.

In 1940 Chamier was elected State Senator and served in that body until he was called to active duty in the Army in May 1941, serving as an Infantry Captain. In July, 1942, while in the 85th Infantry Division, he was posted to the Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, and served on the General Staff Corps of the 85th Division, except for a time in Italy and North Africa when he was assigned to the 337th Infantry Regiment and earned a Combat Infantry Badge with Star, the Legion of Merit with Combat “V” and cluster and a Bronze Star with three clusters. Chamier left the Army with the rank of Lt. Colonel in January of 1946.

Before shipping out to North Africa, Chamier met his future wife here in the United States. Elizabeth Williams was then serving as a Captain in the Women’s Army Corps. They were married in Camp Patrick Henry in Virginia, on August 26, 1945. The couple had one child, Suzanne, who graduated from the University of Missouri and obtained a master’s degree from the University of North Carolina.

Returning to Moberly after his marriage and military service, Chamier rejoined his father’s law firm, and practiced with his father for about 15 years. During this time he was re-elected to the Missouri State Senate, and became the chairman of the Judiciary Committee, Majority Floor Leader and chairman of the Senate Criminal Law Committee, which engaged in the 1st revision of those laws, which had not taken place in many years. Chamier lost his second bid for the position in the State Senate election of 1952.

Chamier served as president of the Moberly School Board. He was president of the National Alumni Association, the Law School Alumni Association, the Law School Foundation and Friends of the Library. He received the University of Missouri Alumni Distinguished Service Award in 1967 and 1983. In 1972, he received the University of Missouri Faculty Alumni Award. He was also a member of the Randolph County Bar, the Missouri and American Bar Associations, the American Judicature Society, the American Law Institute, the American College of Probate Counsel, and the Commissioner of the Missouri Supreme Court. From 1968-1973, he served on the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

In his later years Mr. Chamier was a member and vice president of the Auto Club of Missouri, a member of the Randolph County Historical Society, and the State Historical Society of Missouri. He attended the First Baptist Church and taught Sunday school classes there.

Richard Chamier died on February 22, 1984, and is buried at Oakland Cemetery in Moberly, Missouri.
Arrangement:

The collection has been arranged into the following three series:

Military
Political
Public Service

Scope and Content Note:

Military series

This series contains World War II officer efficiency reports on Richard Chamier, listing type of duty, unit assigned, dates of service, and performance evaluations; orders for active duty training; statement of service for longevity pay; correspondence regarding error in sending failure to comply notice to Chamier; World War II photographs of United States, Italy and North Africa; World War II Battle histories in North Africa and Italy; WWII Italy road map; WWII Battle descriptions of both European and Pacific theaters; reports of 85th Infantry Division; WWII and post-war photographs; writings: The Vienna Inter-allied Command, Chapter I; Correspondence regarding psychology and efficiency of soldiers and humor; citation for 85th Infantry Division, 1932-1955.

Political series

This series consists of Missouri State Senate election returns, 1934-1944; correspondence, Missouri Senate race, 1940; form letters used in senatorial campaigns of 1940, 1948; senatorial campaign groups and club endorsements for Chamier for State Senate, 1940, 1949; School Bill, Teacher’s Bill, 1941, 1951; general correspondence on Bills and issues, 1941-1948; 1946 Democratic Primary, Randolph and Howard Counties; senatorial campaign, 1948; roads, veterans, Bills, 1948-1952; senatorial campaign, Bills, 1948-1953; Collier’s magazine on political corruption in Missouri, 1949; inaugural ceremonies, State of Missouri, 1949; Democratic State Committee of Missouri, 1949-1953; general Political Material, 1949-1953; senatorial campaign, Probate and Magistrate Judge, Randolph County, 1949-1974; Motor Vehicle Fuel Tax Law, Bill, 1950; lobbying, 1950, 1951; Bills, opponent George Spencer, 1951; correspondence, 1951; Crime Code Revision, Bills, gambling, labor rackets, slot machines drugs, veterans bills, 1951, 1952; Driver’s License Bill, 1951; Roads and Highways, 1951; St. Louis unit control bill, 1951; other assorted bills and amendments, matters handled, 1951-1952; Senate Journals, Bills, 1951, 1952; Senatorial campaign, opponent George Spencer, 1951-1952; State aid for schools, 1952; Joint Legislative Turnpike Committee, 1952; Reader’s Digest corruption article correspondence, 1952; Senatorial campaign endorsements and confirmations, campaign literature, speeches and speech ideas, veterans, etc. 1952; voting records, absences, 1952; letters from prominent political figures, 1952-1963; Missouri Commission on Human Rights, Office of Probate Judge and Magistrate, 1952-1974; Reader’s Digest article on bills, 1953.
Public Service series

This series contains material from Richard Chamier’s term as school board president for Moberly High School, and includes material on the desegregation issue, 1946-1956, and Chamier’s service with the Missouri Commission on Human Rights (MCHR). This material focuses on an investigation by the national organization regarding the firing of the Missouri Commission president, and the national organization’s lack of communication with the Missouri Commission, which resulted in Chamier’s resignation, 1971-1973.

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