

# Clarence M. Kelley

October 24, 1911 – August 5, 1997

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation

Clarence Kelley was born in Kansas City, Missouri in 1911. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Kansas in 1936 as a proud member of Sigma Nu fraternity. He then continued his education to earn a LL.B. from the University of Missouri, Kansas City in 1940. He was admitted to the Missouri Bar the same year and joined the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent in October 7, 1940. He served in offices in Huntington, West Virginia; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Des Moines, Iowa; and the FBI Training Center in Quantico, Virginia.

Kelley served in the United States Navy from July 22, 1944, to April 9, 1946, having been granted military leave from the FBI. Returning from military service Kelley was assigned to the Kansas City office, where his performance earned him a promotion to field supervisor. He also served at FBI Headquarters in Washington, D.C. in 1951. From July 1953 to July 1957 he served as Assistant Special Agent in Charge at the Houston, Seattle, and San Francisco offices. He was then transferred to the Training and Inspection Division at FBI Headquarters, becoming an Inspector. In December, 1957 he was promoted to Special Agent in Charge of the Birmingham office and was reassigned to the Memphis office in November 1960, where he served as Special Agent in Charge until his retirement from the FBI on October 24, 1961.

After retiring from the FBI, Kelley became the Chief of Police in Kansas City, Missouri. During that time he was a member and officer of several civic associations. He is acknowledged and respected as an innovator who created the first helicopter division as well as installing the first computer systems in the Kansas City Police Department.

In 1970 Kelley received the J. Edgar Hoover Gold Medal for Outstanding Job Service, presented by the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The following year he was named to the Presidential Advisory Committee, and served on both the National Advisory Commission on Criminal Justice Standards and Goals and on the FBI National Academy Review Committee from 1972-1973. On June 7, 1973, President Richard M. Nixon nominated Kelley to be Director of the FBI. The United States Senate confirmed the nomination June 27 and he was sworn in on July 9. Kelley was the first director of the FBI to be appointed through the nomination and confirmation process. Kelley announced his intention to retire in 1977, prompting an exhaustive year-long search for a successor. President Jimmy Carter finally settled upon William H. Webster who was nominated in January 1978. Kelley retired from the FBI February 15, 1978 and was temporarily succeeded by James Adams, who served as Acting Director until Webster's confirmation two weeks later.

In 1982, Clarence Kelley returned home to Kansas City and founded Clarence M. Kelley and Associates (CMKA). CMKA has grown to be the Midwest's leader in security solutions and risk management providing highly professional armed and unarmed guard services, executive protection and investigations of all types.

