

Biography of
THE HONORABLE DAVID BURNETT
ARKANSAS STATE SENATOR



CHAIRMAN - JOINT PERFORMANCE REVIEW
SENATE DISTRICT 15

Arkansas State Senator David Burnett is in his first term representing Senate District 15, which comprises Mississippi and Poinsett counties. He was elected to the Senate in 2010.

During the 88th General Assembly, he serves as chairman of Joint Performance Review and vice chairman of Senate City, County and Local Affairs. He holds membership on Legislative Joint Auditing; Arkansas Legislative Council; Senate Public Health, Welfare and Labor; Senate Rules, Resolutions and Memorials; and as an alternate on Joint Budget Committee.

Senator Burnett is a retired circuit and chancery judge for the Second Judicial District of Arkansas, which comprises six counties. From 2007-2009, he was chief judge of the district. He also served as prosecuting attorney for the Second District from 1974-1982. Currently, he is an attorney and an adjunct professor at Arkansas Northeastern College.

During his legal career he served in leadership positions with many organizations and groups:

- President, Arkansas Prosecuting Attorneys Association,
- President, Trial Judges Section of the Arkansas Judicial Council,
- President, Arkansas Judicial Council,
- Chairman, Judicial Advisory Board to Department of Corrections, and
- Chairman, Arkansas Supreme Court Commission on Criminal Practice.

A native of Blytheville and a graduate of Blytheville High School, Senator Burnett received his bachelor's degree in history and political science in 1963 and a law degree from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville in 1966. He also received various training and certificates from several universities, including the University of Nevada Judicial College, the University of Memphis and the University of Oxford England Durham College. He was certified to practice law before the United States Supreme Court in 1966. From 1967 through 1969, Senator Burnett was on active duty with the Army in Vietnam. He was a captain in the Military Police Corp and was awarded a Bronze Star and the Army Commendation Award.

Civically, Senator Burnett is a proud Eagle Scout along with his father and his son. Senator Burnett also earned the Award of Merit and membership in the Order of the Arrow and has been active in numerous capacities with several organizations and received important recognitions over the years:

- President, Osceola Kiwanis Club,
- President, Eastern Arkansas Boy Scout Council,
- President and Chairman of the Board, First Christian Church of Osceola,
- Secretary, Osceola Port Authority,
- Little Rock Boy Scout Council Member,
- Scoutmaster, Troop 222 of the Boy Scouts of America,
- Arkansas Northeastern Foundation board of directors,
- VFW of Osceola,
- American Legion Post 24 of Blytheville,
- National Eagle Scout Association,
- Mississippi River Parkway Commission,
- Governor's DWI Commission, and
- Silver Beaver Award.

Senator Burnett and his wife, Sonja, attend First Christian Church in Osceola where he has served as chairman of the board. They have two children, United States Army Major Jonathan Burnett and Amanda Burnett Marsh, and three grandchildren.