

NOT FOR RELEASE BEFORE 12:45 PM, THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1950

CITATION
FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

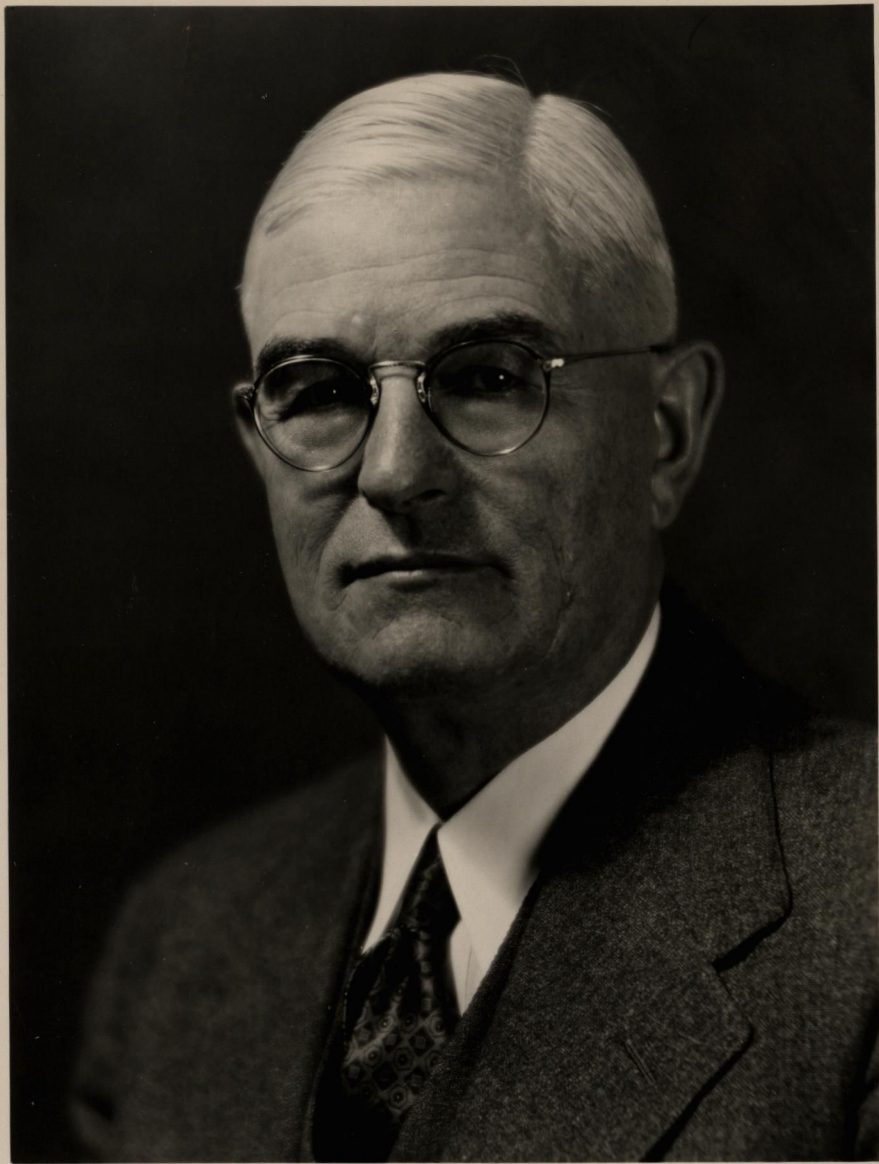
FRANK A. BANKS

for distinguished achievement in behalf of all the citizens of the United States of America, over forty-four years of service in the Bureau of Reclamation during which he brought the Columbia River to the further service of mankind.

His life's work in the Federal service to all the people is outstanding for broad vision, ability, and accomplishment in harnessing a great river system to transform waste land into productive valleys and produce power for industry, farm, and home, in war and in peace. Coming in his youth from the University of Maine in 1906, he joined a four-year-old western conservation endeavor, known as Reclamation, as a survey gang rodman on the Yellowstone Project in Montana. He served as a designer and builder, and distinguished himself in four additional capacities at various times as Regional Director of Reclamation for the Pacific Northwest, as Bonneville Power Administrator, as a United States member of the International Committee on High Dams, and as United States representative on the International Columbia River Engineering Committee. While academic and professional honors have been heaped upon him, his triumphal progress over the years down the Columbia River system is unequalled. Starting at its headwaters in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, before World War I, he was construction engineer on the Jackson Lake enlargement. Moving slowly downstream, he built and left behind him the American Falls Dam of the Minidoka Project,

Idaho, on the Snake River; the Owyhee Dam, Oregon, in its day the Nation's outstanding engineering structure; the Thief Valley Dam, Oregon; and the Grand Coulee Dam, Washington. At Coulee, from its inception to its completion, he had charge of the biggest concrete structure man has built, and installed there the generators that make it the greatest single source of electrical energy in the World today, as well as the pumps and canals to irrigate a million acres. While little the Department of the Interior does can add to or detract from the autobiography that Frank Banks wrote in steel and concrete and dams across the valley of the Columbia, which will aid the Nation as long as water runs downhill, this citation is tendered in recognition of his service to all the people.

(Sgd.) Oscar L. Chapman
Secretary of the Interior



to 134

to 134

to 134

to 134

2

to 134

489J 2

to 134

100