CARL ALBERT

He was called the “Little Giant from Little Dixie.” That was Carl Albert. He was only a few inches over five feet tall. But he became a very important leader who made a difference. In fact, he would become the leader of our national Congress in Washington, D.C. That is why Carl Albert was called a “giant” by those who knew him.

But it was a long road Carl toward earning this nickname. He was born in a log cabin in Bugtussle, Oklahoma. This southeastern part of Oklahoma was called “Little Dixie.” His father was a coal miner who had great dreams for his children. Carl worked hard in school and paid for college himself.

After serving in the military, he asked the people of Oklahoma to vote for him for Congress. Congress is our group of leaders who make the laws for our country. Each state sends leaders to Congress so that all states and their people have a say in our laws. Carl Albert was elected to office 14 times. He was chosen by other congressmen to be the leader of Congress. This person is called the Speaker of the House of Representatives.

Carl Albert served our state well. He worked for laws to help older people. He also worked to pass laws to help children needing medical care. His ideas were “giant” for the times. That is why how he lived up to his nickname. You can see his picture hanging in our state capitol.

1. What was it like for Carl Albert growing up?

2. What things did Carl Albert do to help the people of Oklahoma and the United States?

3. What does Carl Albert’s nickname mean?