

Distinguished Achievement Citation

David L. Hobson
Class of 1958

With pride, we present Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation to Congressman David L. Hobson in recognition of his exceptional career in public service and his dedication as an outstanding American leader to this nation and the State of Ohio.

Congressman Hobson graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1958 with a B.A. in Politics & Government. He served in the Ohio Air National Guard from 1958 to 1963, including 10 months on active duty overseas. He received his J.D. in 1963 from The Ohio State University College of Law, and for several years, worked as an attorney for several Ohio insurance firms. He also has served as chairman of a financial services company and on the boards of a bank, oil company, and restaurant business.

From 1982 to 1990, Republican Congressman Hobson gained valuable political experience during his time in the Ohio Senate. A member of the Republican Party, he served as Majority Whip from 1986 to 1988 and President Pro Tempore from 1988 to 1990. While in the Ohio Senate, Congressman Hobson served as Chairman of the Senate Committee on Health, Human Services and Aging. In this role he authored Ohio's first comprehensive AIDS legislation, passed the first program to establish grant programs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease, and wrote legislation to reform and reorganize the Department of Mental Health.

This experience was used to its fullest when he was elected to the United States House of Representatives for Ohio's 7th Congressional District in 1990. His desire to help others and his past experiences allowed him to better understand the needs of the Springfield area and its residents. In Congressman Hobson's own words, "What really inspires me is when I can make a difference in peoples' lives, and they feel better about their existence."

During his time in the House, Congressman Hobson gained a solid reputation among his peers for his sound judgment, hard work, and inclusiveness. He has befriended leadership and members from both sides of the aisle and has been quoted as saying when he was in the majority party, "I tried to treat everyone the way I'd want to be treated if I were in the minority." Over the years his leadership roles have grown to include serving as Chairman of the Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee from 1999 to 2002 and Chairman of the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Subcommittee from 2003 to 2007. He is currently the Ranking Minority Member of the Energy and Water Subcommittee, as well as the Senior Member of the Defense Appropriations Subcommittee.

Always passionate about the military, Congressman Hobson has fought to make sure our military has the resources it needs to defend our interests around the world, and has supported the use of high technology to enhance the capabilities of our military personnel. Congressman Hobson has also worked to make sure that our troops and their families receive the pay, benefits, housing, and quality health care they deserve. His work also includes protecting Ohio's military bases from closure and securing thousands of new jobs during the last round of Base Realignment and Closure proceedings.

Even though he is retiring at the end of this term, Congressman Hobson will surely be missed by all that have worked with him. As he has said, "It is difficult to walk away from a job where you feel that you have made a difference in improving the lives of others and shaping national policy."

Congressman Hobson has stayed involved in his district and home community as a businessman, Rotarian, former trustee of four area universities, including Ohio Wesleyan, former board member of his church, and member of several veterans organizations. He has received numerous awards, including several Legislator of the Year awards from various social and government-related organizations. Congressman Hobson has also been the recipient of numerous honorary degrees from Ohio colleges, including an honorary degree from Ohio Wesleyan in 2002, and an Honorary Doctorate from the U.S. Air Force Institute of Technology, which was the fourth honorary doctorate given in the institution's 85-year history. He has also been a steadfast supporter of Ohio Wesleyan.

We join his reunioning classmates, which includes his wife Carolyn Alexander Hobson who is also a member of the Class of 1958, in saluting Congressman David Hobson and recognizing his outstanding accomplishments through the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Award.

17 May 2008