

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Ira A. Lipman

Class of 1962

Ira Lipman's campaign on behalf of improving the safety and security of society has been significant. In the interest of reducing the level of violence in this country, Ira Lipman has been the influential leader in a movement to disarm the guards of private security companies.

As founder and president of Guardsmark, Inc., one of the largest security service firms in the country, he has been in a position to make a direct impact on reducing the handgun menace to public safety. His campaign against arming guards started in his own company in 1970 as the result of a fatal accident involving a handgun. Today nearly 100 percent of Guardsmark guards pursue their duties without firearms, and through his effective writing and speaking on the subject, Ira has been able to influence other to join his crusade.

As the author of a useful guide to self defense, "How to Protect Yourself From Crime," his accomplishments and memberships reflect the character of a true renaissance man. Some of his involvements include Boards of trustees of the Brooks Memorial Art Gallery and the Memphis Academy of arts, Advisory Council of the Chickasaw Council Boy Scouts of America, International Association of Chiefs of Police, and Board of Directors of the governor's Jobs for High School Graduates Program. In 1970, he was awarded an honorary LLD from John Marshall University. In 1974, he was named "Best Corporate Chief Executive of achievement." Recently, he was elected National Chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

Through display of his extensive and impressive private collection of paintings including works by Toulouse-Lautrec, Picasso, Matisse and Cassatt, he promotes appreciation of the arts.

Ira Lipman's extraordinary career and his commitment to improving many facets of our world reflect honor on his Alma Mater and make him a most worthy recipient of this Distinguished Achievement Citation.

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