

# DISTINGUISHED ACHIEVEMENT CITATION

## Phillip J. Meek Class of 1959

With this presentation of Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation, The Ohio Wesleyan University Alumni Association Board of Directors is honored and privileged to recognize Phillip Meek and his exceptional career as a business leader and philanthropist.

Phil graduated from Ohio Wesleyan in 1959 with honors in Economics. While at OWU, he was elected president of Phi Society, ODK and the Interfraternity Council. He served on the Student Council for two years and was an active member of *The Transcript*. He was also a member of Phi Gamma Delta, Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Delta Epsilon. Most important to him, he met Nancy LaPorte here, and they were married in 1960.

Phil received his MBA from the Harvard Business School where he was elected president of the Student Association, the student governing body, and graduated in 1961. He joined the central finance staff of the Ford Motor Company and in 1968 was asked to go on loan to help create a coalition of the top 50 businesses in Detroit focused on economic development for minority businesses. Consequently, Phil was named the first president of the Economic Development Corporation of Greater Detroit.

In 1970, just as he was to return to Ford to work for Ohio Wesleyan's John Sagan, VP and Treasurer of Ford, Phil was offered the opportunity to become the publisher of *The Oakland Press*, a daily newspaper with a circulation of 75,000. He ran that newspaper for seven years and then went to Fort Worth, Texas, in 1977 to run the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram*, which Capital Cities had purchased several years earlier.

Following the purchase of ABC by Capital Cities in 1986, Phil was named a senior vice president of Capital Cities/ABC and president of its publishing group in New York. When the Walt Disney Company purchased Capital Cities/ABC in 1996, he helped Disney sell the various publishing units in multiple transactions totaling \$3.5 billion and then retired at the end of 1997.

While in Michigan, Phil was a member of the Pontiac Stadium Authority, which built and operated the Pontiac Silverdome, home of the Detroit Lions for 25 years, and was the general campaign chairman and later president of the local United Way. In Fort Worth, he chaired the first \$1 million TCU/Tarrant County campaign and was general campaign chairman of the Tarrant County United Way campaign the following year. He later served as its president and chairman. He was chairman of the North Texas Commission, the regional body promoting the Metroplex and DFW Airport. In 1985, the same year the *Star-Telegram* was awarded the coveted Pulitzer Prize for distinguished public service, Phil was elected president of the Texas Daily Newspaper Association

and named the newspaper's leader of the year. In 1986, he was named executive of the year in the Metroplex by the *Dallas-Fort Worth Business Journal*.

In New York, he served on the boards of the Magazine Publishers of America and the United Way of New York City. He became an outside director of Roadway Express in 1996 and still serves on its successor company, YRC Worldwide. Elected in 1997 to the Board of Trustees of Guideposts, the inspirational magazine and book company founded more than 50 years ago by Dr. Norman Vincent Peale and his wife Ruth. Phil currently serves as chair of the Finance Committee and as a member of the Executive Committee.

At Ohio Wesleyan, Phil was elected to the Alumni Board of Directors in 1966 and served six years, the last two as vice president. He was president of the Detroit Alumni Association in 1968, and he and Nancy were jointly presented with Alumni Awards in 1974. He was elected to the Board of Trustees in 1984 and served as chair of the Finance, Endowment, and Organization Committees. He was Chair of the Board from 2002-2006, after which he was named a Life Trustee.

His leadership talents, which were nurtured at Ohio Wesleyan have led to a business career distinguished by significant accomplishments. We join everyone who benefits from his skills today in applauding and recognizing Phillip Meek's notable career through the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Citation.