



The barefoot boy in the front row is Carl Albert as a sixth grader.

# A Day to Honor the Speaker

From a barefoot boy in Bug Tussle, Oklahoma, Speaker of the House of Representatives Carl Albert has risen to become one of the most influential and respected men on Capitol Hill. Because of his 25 years of extensive service to the University of Oklahoma, the state of Oklahoma and the nation, the University of Oklahoma observed Saturday, October 2, as Carl Albert Day.

Albert, who in 1931 received a Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University, arrived Friday to attend, along with other OU Rhodes Scholars, an evening reception and dinner in the Speaker's honor at the Commons Restaurant at the Oklahoma Center for Continuing Education.

After a Saturday luncheon and reception held in his honor in the Oklahoma Memorial Union, he joined OU President Paul F. Sharp in the presidential box for the OU-USC game. During half-time the University of Oklahoma Association presented Albert with a commemorative plaque. Roy G. Cartwright, Alumni Association president, presented the walnut and bronze plaque which featured an etched portrait of Albert and a reproduction of his diploma. Following the football game he attended a reception in the University House.

One of the most outstanding scholars in the history of the University of Oklahoma, Albert graduated in 1931 as a straight "A" student with a bachelor of arts degree in government. It was at OU that his lasting devotion to education and government began to grow. But the roots were planted early in his boyhood.

He grew up in Bug Tussle, a small rural community near McAlester, and attended Flowery Mound rural school. His parents later moved to McAlester, where he attended high school and was senior valedictorian. In high school he was elected president of the student body and won a nationwide oratorical contest for which he received a three-month tour of Europe.



Working his way through the University, he served as president of the student body, was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and was a member of Kappa Alpha social fraternity. He wrestled for OU, belonged to the debate team and won a national oratorical championship.

He was active in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps, Blue Key, honorary service and leadership organization, and Pe-et, honorary organization for senior men.

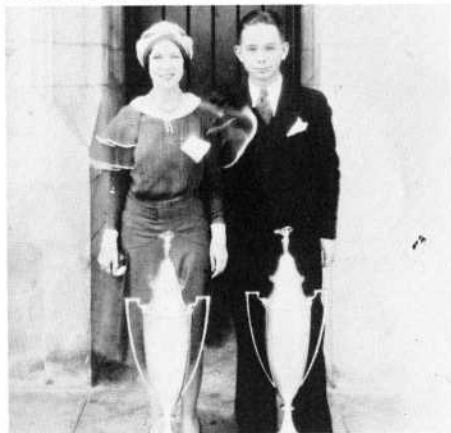
His senior year, Albert received the Outstanding Senior Man award from the OU Dads' Association. The late Dr. W. B. Bizzell acclaimed Carl Albert as "the most brilliant student who ever graduated from the University of Oklahoma."

At Oxford he received a bachelor of arts degree and a bachelor of civil law degree.

Albert entered World War II as a U.S. Army private. He was later assigned to the Judge Advocates General's Department, served the next two and a half years in the Pacific theatre and emerged as a lieutenant colonel.

Albert, who now has the highest governmental office ever held by a Sooner, began his distinguished career in government with his 1946 election to the 80th Congress, representing Oklahoma's Third Congressional District. He is dean of the Oklahoma delegation in the House and has served in the body longer than any other Oklahoman.

Albert shared honors with a classmate, Velma Jones, upon receiving trophies from the OU Dads' Association naming them outstanding seniors on campus.



He served as House Majority Whip from the 84th Congress through the first session of the 87th Congress. In January 1962, he was elected Majority Leader of the House of Representatives, a position he held until his election as Speaker in 1971. The first man born in the 20th Century to serve as Speaker, he has been described as a man with an intense love of the House, a burning ambition and a single-minded determination to succeed.

In 1964 he served as chairman of the Committee on Resolutions and Platform of the Democratic National Convention, and he served in 1968 as chairman of the Democratic National Convention.

Albert, who is admired for his deep sense of history and political philosophy, has served on many committees in the House, including 13 years on the Agriculture Committee and five years on the Science and Astronautics Commit-

tee. During the 90th Congress he served on the Education and Labor Committee.

From a picture in the 1930 OU "Sooner" — Albert was active in the Army Reserve Officers' Training Corps while at OU and was a colonel in the second field artillery his senior year.

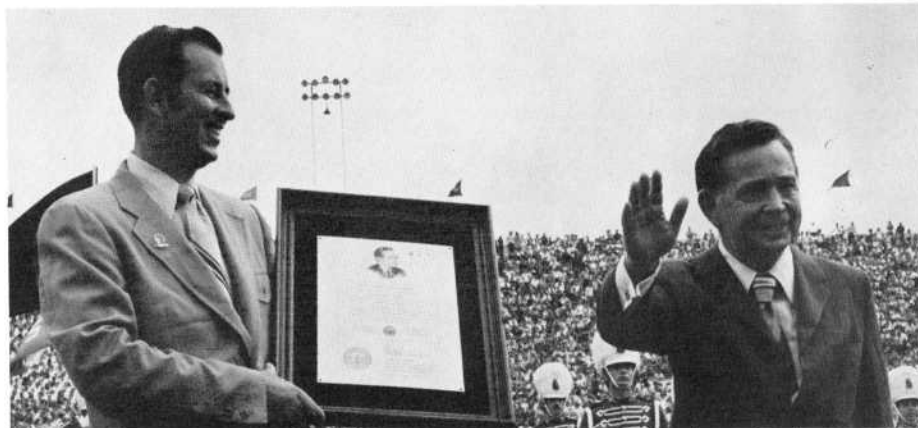


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The highest honor OU can grant, the Distinguished Service Citation, was awarded Albert in 1962. He is a member of the Oklahoma Hall of Fame and holds an honorary degree from Oklahoma City University. He is currently serving as the honorary chairman of the membership committee of the Higher Education Alumni Council of Oklahoma.

Each spring he returns to the OU campus to present the Carl Albert Award to the outstanding senior in the College of Arts and Sciences. The award was established in 1966 by Mr. and Mrs. Julian J. Rothbaum of Tulsa in the "hope that this award will be an inspiration to future students."

The old two-room clapboard school house at Flowery Mound stands unused now, but on its white wall a bronze plaque has been added. The plaque marks Bug Tussle as an historic site where Carl Albert, Speaker of the House of Representatives, received his basic education, and it is signed "Lyndon Baines Johnson, President of the United States."



Roy G. Cartwright, Alumni Association president, presents a plaque to Speaker Carl Albert during half-time ceremonies at the OU-USC football game.