

Sooner Scene

We are looking for a man who has made the deserts bloom, has relieved hunger and suffering of his fellow men, has given a sense of purpose and direction to those who know him, has inspired others to do what they thought could not be done, has built a better mouse trap, or has found a cure for an incurable disease. There are Oklahomans who have made real contributions to one or more of these areas of service. They are the people honored each year by the Distinguished Service Citations, sponsored jointly by the University and the Alumni Association. It is a significant program representing the highest honor the University can bestow upon an individual.

If you know of a person you think is qualified, send your nomination to the secretary of the University or the Alumni Association. The Selection Committee will welcome your suggestions.

Since the program was started in 1948, the following persons have received Distinguished Service Citations:

A. S. Mike Monroney, Oklahoma City; Lynn Riggs, New York City; E. DeGolyer, Dallas, Texas; William S. Key, Oklahoma City; Raymond S. McClain, Oklahoma City.

Forrest P. Baker, Talihina; Benjamin G. Owen, Norman; Frank Phillips, Bartlesville; Lew Wentz, Ponca City; Muriel H. Wright, Oklahoma City.

John R. Abernathy, Oklahoma City; O. H. P. Brewer, Muskogee; David W. Griffin, Norman; Alice L. Marriott, Oklahoma City; Lloyd Noble, Ardmore.

Norman W. Brillhart, Madill; Lloyd James Hibbard, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Hal L. Muldrow, Jr., Norman; Jay G. Puterbaugh, McAlester; Edgar S. Vaught, Oklahoma City.

Lulu B. Beckington, Tulsa; John F. Easley, Ardmore; George C. McGhee, Dallas; William E. Baker, Boise City; Edward E. Dale, Norman.

William S. Hamilton, Pawhuska; Isaac N. McCash, Enid; Ward S. Merrick, Ardmore; Morris L. Wardell, Norman.

Major General Fred S. Borum, Muskogee; Roy Temple House, Norman; Judge Alfred Paul Murrah, Oklahoma City; William Grove Skelly, Tulsa; Mrs. Edyth Thomas Wallace, Oklahoma City.

E. K. Gaylord, Oklahoma City; George L. Cross, Norman; John Kirkpatrick, Oklahoma City; T. Howard McCasland, Duncan; Paul A. Walker, Norman.

In the words of the rules governing selection, the purpose of the Distinguished Service Citation program is to recognize and honor men and women who have made positive contributions to human progress through their devotion to enduring values, and their unselfish and sustained services to others.

Those who are eligible include:

1) Any living person who is a graduate or former student of the University of Oklahoma or who is a resident or former resident of the State of Oklahoma.

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2) Nominations may be submitted to the Secretary of the Alumni Association or to the Secretary of the University.

3) Not more than five honorees shall be selected to receive Distinguished Service Citations in any one year, however, fewer may be chosen at the discretion of the committee.

Here are some of the factors considered by the committee in making its selection:

1) Good citizenship and distinguished service to his community, state or nation,

2) Humanitarian, cultural, intellectual, or scientific contributions to society, rather than material success standing alone,

3) Pioneering in new fields, thereby advancing ideas and opportunity for development.

4) Distinguished service and achievement which enhanced his chosen profession.

5) The characteristics sought should have been demonstrated over a period of years.

The people who have been honored in this program are the best measure of it. Their lives are measured in what they have accomplished for others. Here are a few examples which could very well be taken as a guide for the future.

John R. Abernathy of Oklahoma City received a Distinguished Service Citation in recognition of his spiritual leadership in Oklahoma over a period of 40 years and for his application of Christian principles to innumerable humanitarian and civic undertakings.

Alice Lee Marriott was another distinguished recipient of this honor. Her recognition came because of her signal achievements in interpreting the history, life and arts of the American Indians through her books.

Another man honored was William E. "Uncle" Baker, who served as County Agent of the Cimarron County with great distinction for more than 25 years. He perhaps more than any other man was responsible for the improvement of agriculture and soil conservation in the western portion of Oklahoma.

Another great humanitarian was David Wilson Griffin, a physician, who served for 50 years as head of Central State Hospital in Norman, and who was responsible for great advancement in the understanding and treatment of mental diseases.

Still another is Lloyd James Hibbard, a distinguished electrical engineer and inventor who was responsible for more than 60 patents in the development of the motor generator locomotive.

—R. BOYD GUNNING

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