



Distinguished Service Citations

THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE CITATION HAS BEEN AWARDED BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA AND THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA ASSOCIATION TO THESE MEN AND WOMEN IN HONOR AND RECOGNITION OF THEIR POSITIVE CONTRIBUTIONS TO HUMAN PROGRESS THROUGH THEIR DEVOTION TO ENDURING VALUES AND THEIR UNSELFISH AND SUSTAINED SERVICES TO MANKIND.

ROBERT S. KERR, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

ERRETT R. NEWBY, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

KITTY SHANKLIN ROUNTREE, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

WALLACE C. THOMPSON, Houston, Texas

ROSCOE WALKER, Pawhuska, Oklahoma

THE recipients of the Distinguished Service Citations form one of the most select groups in the State of Oklahoma. They have received the highest honor which the University of Oklahoma and the University of Oklahoma Association can bestow. Their records of devotion and service have undergone the most careful evaluation by an anonymous year-around committee of faculty and alumni. This committee may select no more than five each year.

There are 48 names on the permanent Distinguished Service Citation Plaque in the Alumni Office, 5 women and 43 men. Some of the names are nationally known, such as Actor Van Heflin, U. S. Senator A. S. Mike Monroney and Lynn Riggs, author of the book which became the musical *Oklahoma!* Others have made most of their contributions on the local scene, such as Ard-

more businessman Ward Merrick and the late Professor M. L. Wardell; while still others are known primarily for their professional standing, such as Anthropologist Alice Marriott and Dean Wooldridge, pacesetter in the field of electronics. But however diverse their lives may have been, they all either received their start or gained their fame in Oklahoma.

The presentation of the Distinguished Service Citations is a highlight of the annual spring Commencement exercises. In addition the recipients and their families are honored at the Alumni Reunion luncheon. This year Sooner alumni could be especially proud of the Citation honorees, since all five had themselves attended the University of Oklahoma. Their varied careers and many accomplishments are outlined on the following two pages.



the recipients represent the active life of the southwest

ROBERT S. KERR, '16, has spent a lifetime as a leader—in business and civic affairs and in the governmental and political life of his state and his nation. In many minds his career has become synonymous with the Oklahoma success story. Actually born in the proverbial log cabin, Bob Kerr has become one of Oklahoma's best-known and most influential citizens, a leader in the petroleum industry, governor of the state and now United States senator.

When he entered the state political arena, Kerr had already attained business success with his Kerr-McGee Oil Industries, Inc., which he served as president, then chairman of the board. As Oklahoma's first native-born governor (from 1943 to 1947), he fought for a sound state fiscal policy, educational support and conservation. Conservation and a water development program remained his prime concerns when he was sent to the United States Senate in 1948.

Now in his third senatorial term, Kerr is a member of the Senate Public Works committee and chairman of its subcommittee on flood control, rivers and harbors. He is also ranking Democratic member of the Senate Finance committee. Characteristic of his far-sighted, progressive approach to national affairs is Senator Kerr's position in the forefront of the nation's space program as chairman of the Senate Aeronautical and Space committee.

Senator Kerr has always found the time to support civic and charitable organizations within his home state. His devotion to his church and his work on its behalf have led to his recognition as one of the outstanding Baptist laymen in the Southwest.

KITTY ROUNTREE, '23ba, has successfully combined the busy career of a wife and mother with a life of service to children less fortunate than her own. She has been counselor and tutor, friend and champion of countless young people in Oklahoma, and the inspiration

and encouragement she has given them have contributed many worthwhile citizens to the state.

After receiving her O. U. degree and doing graduate social work, she became director of the medical-social service department of the Oklahoma City Children's Hospital. She was the first social service worker with the Oklahoma State Society for Crippled Children.

College students, particularly those at the University of Oklahoma, have occupied a special place in Kitty Rountree's life. She has been a trustee of O. U.'s Lew Wentz Foundation for many years. She has promoted the exchange of college students with other countries as Oklahoma's director for the Institute of International Education which administers the Fulbright and Smith-Mundt scholarships. The growing field of adult education has benefited from her enthusiastic work as counselor for O. U.'s new Bachelor of Liberal Studies program.

Kitty Rountree is the only woman to ever be elected president of the University of Oklahoma Association, and she is now vice chairman of the Alumni Development Fund Board of Directors. Her contributions of time and energy to cultural, educational and charitable organizations have made her as valuable to her home community of Oklahoma City as she has been to the University and to the state at large.

ERRETT R. NEWBY, '07fa, '08ba, has been closely identified with the interests of the University of Oklahoma for the past 57 years. As a student leader, as a member of the administration and faculty and as an active alumnus, he has contributed greatly to the progress of higher education in Oklahoma.

Newby initiated Sooner traditions as an organizer of the athletic association, fall Homecoming, several honor societies and a social fraternity. From 1908 to 1920 he was secretary, then registrar of the University. He taught the first business courses at O. U. and was chairman of the committee on accrediting secondary schools in Oklahoma. Newby was on the committees re-

ROBERT S. KERR (top)
KITTY SHANKLIN ROUNTREE (bottom)

ERRETT R. NEWBY (top)
WALLACE C. THOMPSON (middle)
ROSCOE WALKER (bottom)

their careers have touched politics, industry and home

sponsible for the construction of the Oklahoma Memorial Union and Owen Stadium.

Even after he left the University campus, Newby remained a part of the University program—as president of the University of Oklahoma Association and a long-time trustee of the O. U. Life Membership Fund. For 15 years Newby was chairman of the Will Rogers Memorial Scholarship Trust, which aids prospective teachers and handicapped students. He has been a trustee of the University of Oklahoma Foundation since 1951 and was once vice president of that board.

In addition to his work for O. U., Newby has been prominent in the activities of the Christian Church and has been trustee of its affiliated Phillips University for 41 years. Always aware of his responsibilities to his home community, Newby has also attained a position of leadership in the business, cultural and civic life of Oklahoma City.

WALLACE C. THOMPSON, '20geol, has achieved a success in the petroleum industry that has brought him international recognition and has added to the prestige of the School of Geology which trained him. As a sincere and devoted supporter of higher education, he has brought the resources of industry to the aid of colleges and universities and has himself contributed generously to the welfare of his alma mater.

Thompson joined the Sun Oil Company in Ardmore in 1920. He soon became district geologist for Sun Oil in Wichita Falls and later in Tyler, Texas. In 1934 he became associated with General Crude Oil Company in Houston and was quickly made a director, then vice president of the company.

Contending that industrial growth is more dependent upon the quality of manpower than on technological advances, Thompson has urged his industry to back higher education—and he has not spared himself in service to his own University. For the past 10 years he has been a trustee of the University of Oklahoma Foundation. His special interest has been directed

toward support of the University Press, the library program, the many areas of scientific research and, of course, the School of Geology. Thompson's many anonymous benefactions to the University have made possible programs which otherwise would have been abandoned.

Within the City of Houston, Thompson has long been recognized as a professional and civic leader, serving on the boards of directors of several petroleum associations and working for the welfare of youth.

ROSCOE WALKER, '09bs, was physician, friend and counselor to the people of Pawhuska and the surrounding area for 41 years. Only someone who has lived in Northeastern Oklahoma can realize the full impact which his life has had on that section of the state.

When Dr. Walker returned to Oklahoma with a medical degree from Columbia University, Pawhuska was still a rough and tumble frontier town. As a young doctor, he brought modern surgical methods to Osage County, making his rounds with a collapsible operating table in the back of his wagon and later in his Model T Ford. He stopped counting the number of babies he had delivered when the total passed 1,000. In his 41 years of medical practice, he was family physician to three generations and hardly a family in the area had not been touched by his faithful service.

His work with the Selective Service Board during World War II brought Dr. Walker commendation from the President and Congress of the United States. In 1944 he was made a fellow of the Academy-International of Medicine.

When Dr. Walker brought his medical career to a close in 1954, hundreds of his neighbors gathered in Pawhuska to honor the pioneer physician. Telegrams of congratulations and appreciation poured in from admirers all over the country, including a governor, a U. S. Senator and a Congressman. Dr. Walker's record of devotion to his profession and service to others exemplifies the highest qualifications for the Distinguished Service Citation.

