



## ROBERT GEORGE HUSTEK

### "Spirit of '51" Award

**B**ob, when you were captain of our varsity basketball team during the 1950-51 season, you spearheaded Doggie Julian's "give and go" offense. After college, and after a bout with polio, you returned to your hometown of Bridgeport, Connecticut, to begin a long and honorable career as a teacher and coach of youngsters. There you proved that a "go and give" philosophy is even more rewarding than beating Bob Cousy (as you and your team once did), for your concern and compassion for city kids was always in evidence both in the classroom and on the field of play. Clearly, you are a man devoted to the ideal of giving to others. And nowhere is that ideal better expressed than in your efforts as chairman of our Class Projects Committee, which, beginning in 1986, initiated a series of benefices to the College and to the community of Hanover.

From the start, your generous spirit has been the impetus behind our collective wish to distribute a portion of our class funds to the following worthy recipients: the Hood Museum, for artist-in-residencies and an intern program to prepare students for curatorship careers; the Hopkins Center music appreciation program, through which the Barbary Coast Band brought quality popular music and seminars to several Upper Valley schools, the joint Ford Sayre/Dartmouth Outing Club ski program, to aid in their instruction and competitions for youth in the area; and Dartmouth College, to defray half the cost of acquiring the earliest known painting of Dartmouth Row, to be presented on the occasion of our 40th reunion in June, 1991.

As ambitious and as time-consuming for you as these projects have been, we suspect that one called "Hanover: A Remembrance" has been your favorite; for this was your brainchild, an idea that no one had considered before—namely, to find ways to thank the many people who live and work in the Hanover area for their often unacknowledged acts of kindness to Dartmouth students over the years. It was you who made it possible for Dick's House and Hitchcock Clinic nurses to go to plays; for Hanover police and fire fighters to attend basketball games; for College buildings and grounds workers to go to hockey games; for high school students to hear Dartmouth Symphony concerts; for VA Hospital veterans and disabled/retarded residents to see a football game—in all, benefiting over 200 people who would not, perhaps, have had such opportunities. And at each event both you and your wife Kathy personally greeted them and followed through on every detail as our 1951 hosts. What prodigies of devotion you two have been! Of course, the response from these recipients has been unrestrained surprise and delight, which, for you, was probably reward enough.

Still, your classmates wish to present to you our heartiest commendation and highest class award, not only for a job well done on our behalf, but also for a lengthy series of generous acts so thoughtfully and so beautifully conducted. You have, indeed, done us proud, and you put us in mind of Wordsworth's lines in "Tintern Abbey," where the poet writes of "that best portion of a good man's life; / His little, nameless, unremembered acts/of kindness and of love." Bob, we will remember them, your acts of kindness and of love. And for them we honor you with the 1990 "Spirit of '51" Award.