



ROBERT W. HOPKINS "Spirit of '51" Award

Bob, last April when you were honored by the Class Presidents Association as 1991 Class President of the Year, few, perhaps, were aware of the long apprenticeship you had served in arriving at that pinnacle. Years ago you began your training in leadership by being twice elected president of your class at Kimball Union Academy in the mid-1940s. Later, from 1969 to 1975, you were president of the Fairfield County Dartmouth Club in Connecticut. Then in the early 1980s you served as president of Woodway Country Club.

In addition to this experience, we can hardly overlook that an early "Hoppy," your Uncle Ernest, was president of this very College, and that your dad, Class of 1914, wrote our beloved song "Dartmouth's in Town Again." And what with two daughters, a nephew, and a niece who are Dartmouth graduates, you have Dartmouth credentials second to none.

Your involvement with the College has been a Hopkins family tradition, one which you have lovingly perpetuated in many ways. As an undergraduate, you majored in Economics, joined the Beta house, played baseball, hockey, and lettered in varsity soccer, a sport you never played until college; in your senior year you were elected to Casque and Gauntlet. As an alumnus, you have served as an interviewer of applicant² to Dartmouth, as a member of the Campaign for Dartmouth Committee, as an Alumni Council representative for the Class Presidents Association. And you have served our class in a number of posts: Executive Committee, Chairman of the Nominating Committee, Class Reunion Giving Chairman, Leadership Committee Chairman, Class Agent for the Alumni Fund, and, of course, as Class President from 1986 to 1991.

As a result of so much involvement with Dartmouth, Hanover has become for you over the years a second home, not only as a place with its College, but also as an ideal to be honored, nurtured, and passed on enhanced for succeeding generations. For you, loyalties are a way of life, perhaps the very core of your being; apparently it's always reunion time with you! You have talent for staying in touch with people and for marshaling groups, such as our 28-member Class Executive Committee, into effective goal-achievers. Indeed, at the recent Class Officers Weekend in April, the Class of 1951 received a special commendation for our impressive five-year series of class projects which benefited both the College and the Town of Hanover.

Bob, as a young athlete in prep school and in college—and today in the game of golf you love—you have always exhibited that unconscious exercise of skill that is the essence of grace. And that same grace is present in all of your relationships as you unfailingly remember, in the manner of a true gentleman, to praise the efforts of others, usually doing so in beautifully written letters. As in games a great athlete raises the skill level of all with whom he plays, so you, Bob, bring out the best in all of us with whom you play and work. Thus it seems entirely fitting that you had a twenty-year business career with Avon Products, for with your leadership, you sure know how to make people look and feel good!

Bob, for your many contributions to Dartmouth and to our class, for your consistently thoughtful concern for others, and for being our "Hoppy," your classmates honor you with our 1991 "Spirit of '51" Award.