



HENRY MARSHALL SANDERS

"Spirit of '51" Award

Hank, without exaggeration we can say of you that you represent the Aristotelian ideal of one who is devoted to the affairs of his polis, which in your case spans a broader array of concerns than that envisioned by the ancient Greeks, for you have long shown your devotion to your country, your community, your college, and your college class. Has there ever been a task which Hank Sanders has refused? We know of none, and the list is long, indeed.

To you, service to others is a privilege, and your latest undertaking in 1991 is typical of your attitude. Long before becoming the First Selectman of Darien, Connecticut, you had served the town well by accepting countless responsibilities as the member, chairman, director, and president of several civic, church, charitable, fraternal, and political groups. Twenty years ago, your political concerns for Darien led you to become a founder of its Republican Club and later to get elected a selectman and to serve on its Board of Finance. Clearly, then, you had paid your dues in achieving your present well-deserved position of leadership in the community. And, Hank, knowing of your penchant for L. L. Bean jackets and smoking pipe, we would fain call you "Boss Tweed," except that your involvement in the life of the town – like all your concerns – is entirely selfless.

Your commitment to those affiliations and causes which mean so much to you includes, of course, Dartmouth College and the Class of 1951. Both you have served thoroughly and tirelessly in many capacities: as an interviewer of prospective students, as an officer of two Dartmouth Clubs, as a long-time member of our class Executive Committee, as an Alumni Fund Head Agent, as a member of the College Committee on Regional Organization, and most recently as a member for three years of the College Alumni Council. Your college loyalties and their roots run deep; and although your father went to Harvard, let it be noted that your Uncle Harvey, your brother Stewart, two cousins, and a brother-in-law all took Dartmouth degrees.

What is the source of your service-to-others ethic? We can point to your college sociology major, perhaps; or to your participation in the DOC or in skiing, hockey, and baseball; or to four years in the Air Force; or your years with International Paper; or your wife Shirley and your two children; or the woodlot at your vacation home in Vermont. Yet all of these are but evidence of your caring, not of its origins. Whatever the cause, the truth remains: You are always available to do the work that needs doing, and you pursue those tasks with genuine gentlemanly vigor and keen insight. And no matter how busy you are on behalf of others, you remain kind and thoughtful to all who seek your help.

Speaking for his Ulysses, Tennyson wrote, "I am a part of all that I have met." Such words could be your moto, Hank, for you are a man of many parts, and the parts show no sign of diminishing in number but only of growing to an ever richer whole.

And so it is with much gratitude and pleasure that your Dartmouth classmates salute you with this year's "Spirit of '51" Award.