



HERBERT BORWELL KNIGHT "Spirit of '51" Award

Herb, your life has endured two crashes, one fifteen months after your birth in 1928, the other but a few years ago when you survived a plane accident while on a hunting and fishing trip in Alaska. Other than those two downers, you have made of your life a consistent series of peaks through the exercise of your knowledge, determination, and dedication to other people.

You arrived in Hanover from Oak Park, Illinois, at whose high school you served on the Student Council and the Debating Team. At Dartmouth you continued such serious pursuits by plunging into work on the Greenbook and the Freshman Handbook. Thereafter, you tackled a modified Philosophy/Comp Lit major and became one of Professor Rosenstock-Huessy's boys. For all that seriousness, though, you were not a loner, as you went on to achieve your MBA from Tuck in 1952 and begin a prolonged and successful climb up to the highest levels of American industrial enterprise. Within 24 years you had become President of Newport News Industries Corporation, a position from which you went on to become Director of Planning and Development for the parent company, Tenneco, Inc. Though now retired some eight years ago, you are still involved in owning and directing a manufacturing concern back in the Midwest after living in Virginia and Texas. Clearly, Herb, you enjoy the challenges of the business world, and just as clearly you enjoy working with and for others as an articulate problem-solver.

For there is much more to you than business. Though you continue to follow such interests through your several directorships, you are deeply involved in the on-going concerns of your community. You have served as a United Way Chairman, a Park Board Commissioner, and a Trustee of the Rush Presbyterian/St. Luke's Hospital in Chicago. Indeed, your interest in and knowledge of public health issues has been profound for many years, stemming not only from your corporate experience with First Healthcare Corp but also more importantly from your beloved wife Nancy's bout with MS. And at Dartmouth from 1987 to 1993 you served as a valued board member of both the Dartmouth Medical School and the C. Everett Koop Institute. Then, too, you are probably our only classmate who can boast of having held all of the following leadership positions: Class Reunion Chairman, 1957; Class President, 1961-65; Chicago Alumni Association Secretary, 1963; and Class Alumni Fund Head Agent, 1992-93. In that latter position, you were determined to put our class over the top of our palindromic class-numeral dollar goal, and you succeeded in achieving an even higher palindrome of \$155,551, our highest for a non-reunion year, an accomplishment for which you were recognized as the Outstanding Head Agent 41-60 years out.

And finally, Herb, speaking of such word-play as palindromes, do you realize that your name, Herbert Borwell Knight, is an anagram for "All-Around Great Dartmouth Person of the Class of 1951"? No? Well, it is as far as we are concerned, and that's why your classmates are pleased to honor you with the 1994 Spirit of '51 Award.