



## LOYE WHEAT MILLER, JR.

### "Spirit of '51" Award

**L**oye, you were born into a family whose roots were steeped in printer's ink; for your father, an earlier Loye, was a life-long newspaperman in Tennessee, where in 1921 he was a founder of the Knoxville News (later Sentinel). We can picture him often taking his son to work during his long tenure as the paper's editor, which must have been the basis of your own long career as a reporter, a correspondent, and a public relations specialist, a career which has taken you from the hills of Tennessee to the highest levels of federal power in Washington, DC.

Going to Dartmouth was perhaps for you, Loye, a continuation of your passion for outdoor life in the Great Smokey Mountains. Yet, while chubbing in the DOC, you also found time to major in English, do some work for The Dartmouth, and fraternize at Theta Delta Chi. Upon graduation, a combination of events set you on the career path you were destined to follow. First, you took your Masters Degree at the Columbia University School of Journalism. Then from 1952 to 1955 you served in the Navy, where after sea duty, you got a shore billet in Boston as a Public Information Officer. From that post it was but a short hop upon discharge to your first newspaper job at the Charlotte (NC) Observer, where you covered early racial-integration issues in the South. During that period, you married, your daughter Lissa (a future D '79) and your son (another Loye) were born, and you became an editor of the paper. Moreover, you were getting noticed as a local correspondent for Time and Life magazines, whose editors offered you a position in the nation's capital.

Now truly at the center of things, Loye, the Time/Life folks placed you in the White House Press Corps. From there came other assignments to cover many of the presidential events and campaigns of the 1960s: the beginning and end of the Kennedy administration, Barry Goldwater's run for the Republican nomination, the anti-Vietnam riots at the Democratic Convention in Chicago. As Nixon returned to Washington in the late 1960s, so did you, and there followed a series of top posts in the nation's capital with Time, as their bureau correspondent; with Knight-Ridder, as their senior reporter there; with the Chicago Sun-Times as their Washington Bureau Chief during the Carter years; and finally with Gannett and Newhouse, which brought you to the early days of the first Reagan administration.

Then, beginning in 1984, you embarked upon a ten-year career in public relations, first for William Bennett at the Department of Education, then for Richard Thornburgh at the Department of Justice, and finally for the defense contractor Northrup. In 1994 you stepped off the treadmill and retired.

In retirement, Loye, you have come home to that place where you feel the still North in your heart and the hill winds in your veins. As your daughter Lissa says, "My Dad has a knack of finding those beautiful off-the-beaten-path places, a pretty country road for an afternoon's drive or a perfect fishing hole deep in the woods. Dartmouth is one of his greatest finds." Here in New Hampshire you revel in 18-inch snowfalls; ski in New England, the Rockies, and the Alps; and cheer on Dartmouth hockey teams, both men's and women's. But there's more to your retirement passions: your love of fly-fishing takes you on searches for salmon in Canada and Russia; your love of theater often seats you before local drama groups; your love of music has landed you in a local chorus; your love of your granddaughter Katie has put you two together on last year's Christmas card.

Nor can we overlook your enduring love of your College and your Class as you have served in a long list of capacities since graduation during your busy career and beyond: from 1951 to 1957, you were an early Class Newsletter Editor; from 1956 to 1959, you were a Dartmouth Club President; you have been many times a Class Agent, and from 1998 to 2001 you were a Leadership fundraiser; you were twice our Class Secretary, first from 1956 to 1961 and again from 1996 to 2001; from 1999 to 2001, you were on the Editorial Board of the Alumni Magazine; and today you are the 1951/52 representative on the Alumni Council, as well as our current Class Mini-Reunion Chairman.

Briefly stated, Loye, you have been witness to and reporter of many of the most important political events of the last 45 years of the Twentieth Century. Yet to such accomplishments and to your other on-going contributions, we cannot fail to add one more; namely, your telling of stories which never got into print, such as those which emerged from a few drinks with Barry Goldwater before a roaring fire in the mountains of Arizona. As a political raconteur, you are matchless. And we have yet to mention your lengthy anthology of fishing stories.

For all your abiding convictions of career, of College, of Class, and of life in general, Loye, your classmates of Dartmouth 1951 are most pleased to honor you with this year's "Spirit of '51" Award.