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UA3/9/5 Hall of Distinguished Alumni Luncheon

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2004 Hall of Distinguished Alumni Luncheon
FRIDAY, OCTOBER 22, 2004
11:30 A.M. – SLOAN CONVENTION CENTER

FLOW CHART

1.0 Welcome – Donald Smith
Welcome to all alumni, faculty, staff, and friends of Western Kentucky University. My name is Donald Smith and I am the Executive Director of the WKU Alumni Association. Today, we are proud to induct our 13th class into the Hall of Distinguished Alumni. Since 1992, this event has served as the centerpiece of Western’s Homecoming Week activities. For those who have attended this event in the past, you know this event makes you especially proud to be a Hilltopper.

To begin today, I call upon Leslie Peek, President of the Student Alumni Association to assist the WKU Color Guard in the pledge to our American flag, followed by the invocation.

2.0 Pledge & Invocation – Leslie Peek
2.1 (Allow color guard to present the colors.) Could you please stand and join with me in the pledge to the American flag.
2.2 Let us pray…

3.0 Donald – Thank you Leslie. Please enjoy your lunch, and we will begin the program shortly.

-LUNCHEON-
4.0 Donald – As we finish our lunch, I’d like to introduce the President of the WKU Alumni Association, Brad Watson, to bring greetings on behalf of the Alumni Association.

5.0 Brad Watson – Welcome from Alumni Association

6.0 Donald – Special Recognitions

We’re privileged to have with us today a number of former inductees in the Hall of Distinguished Alumni. I ask the former inductees to please stand as I call your name and remain standing. Please hold your applause until all have been introduced.

From Distinguished Class of
1993 – Dr. Dero Downing
    Hon. John Palmore
1994 – Mr. Kent Preston representing Mr. Raymond Preston
1995 – Dr. Garry Lacefield
1996 – Mr. Jimmy Sacca
1999 – Dr. Lowell Harrison
2000 – Dr. Don Ball
2001 – Mrs. Cora Jane Spiller representing Mr. Duncan Hines
    Mr. Billy Ray Smith
2002 – Dr. Gordon Wilson, Jr. representing Dr. Gordon Wilson Sr.
2003 – Mr. Jimmy Feix

Congratulations to all former inductees and welcome back.

(Lead applause)
I’d also like to recognize another important group of individuals who are present today. The WKU Board of Regents is critical to the future success of our University by setting our vision and governing the institution. Several individuals who serve on the Board of Regents are with us today, and as I call your name please stand and be recognized. Again, hold your applause until all have been introduced.

- Mrs. Judi Hughes
- Ms. Patti Johnson
- Mr. Cornelius Martin
- Ms. Forrest Roberts
- Mrs. LaDonna Rogers

Thank you for all you do for Western. (*Lead Applause*)
 WKU Alumni Association Board

One group that I am particularly fond of as they give our office guidance is the WKU Alumni Association Board of Directors. The weekend activities are inspired by them and they will hold their quarterly meeting immediately following the luncheon today. I’d like to ask all Alumni Board members to please stand as a group and be recognized for the work you do as volunteers throughout the year. *(Lead Applause)*

 Corporate Sponsors

I must recognize the ones who truly make this event possible year in and year out, and these are our corporate table sponsors. This year we are privileged to have 23 sponsors. I draw your attention to the back of the program for a complete listing of corporate sponsors, and let’s extend them special thanks for all they do to make this a high caliber event. *(Lead Applause)*

 Alumni Staff

And last, but certainly not least, I’d like to ask the members of the Alumni staff to please stand. I feel privileged each and every day to work with such a talented and energetic group. Thanks for all you do to strengthen the Western Spirit. *(Lead Applause)*
If you need anything throughout the Homecoming festivities, please don’t hesitate to ask one of those staff members.
Dr. Ransdell

I would now like to introduce the 9th President of Western Kentucky University, Dr. Gary Ransdell, to proceed with the recognition ceremony.

7.0 Dr. Gary Ransdell – Special Comments

It is both an honor and a privilege for me to recognize each of today’s inductees into Western Kentucky University’s Hall of Distinguished Alumni. This honor conveys our highest respect for each of these individuals who have carried the Western spirit with them throughout their very successful lives, and who truly represent the character of Western Kentucky University. These individuals are a source of great pride for those of us in the Western Family, and a source of inspiration to present and future generations of students.

8.0 Presentation of Honorees – Dr. Ransdell

This year’s inductees include Western’s first student, a retired two-star general, and a graduate who worked on the Manhattan Project. These three individuals will join 60 other Western greats inducted since the Hall was established in 1992. Brad Watson will assist with the presentation of each inductee.

Now, please find a clear view of the screens and the podium as we begin the induction of the 2004 Hall of Distinguished Alumni class.
1. DR. HERMAN L. DONOVAN

THIS YEAR’S FIRST INDUCTEE IS DR. HERMAN LEE DONOVAN. IT IS A SOURCE OF GREAT PRIDE FOR ME TO PRESIDE OVER ALL OUR INDUCTIONS, BUT I FEEL PARTICULARLY GRATIFIED, NOT ONLY AS WESTERN’S PRESIDENT, BUT ALSO AS AN ALUMNUS, TO BESTOW THIS HONOR ON DR. DONOVAN.

DR. DONOVAN WAS THE FIRST STUDENT ENROLLED AT WESTERN KENTUCKY STATE NORMAL SCHOOL. THAT EDUCATION SERVED HIM WELL, AND HE WENT ON TO BECOME A FORMATIVE FORCE, SHAPING EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY FOR GENERATIONS. HE SERVED AS PRESIDENT OF EASTERN STATE NORMAL SCHOOL, WHICH LATER BECAME EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY. AFTERWARD, HE WENT ON TO BECOME PRESIDENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY, SERVING IN THAT CAPACITY DURING ONE OF THE MOST DIFFICULT, YET IMPORTANT TIME PERIODS IN THE HISTORY OF AMERICAN EDUCATION.
HISTORIAN BILL ELLIS SAID, "NO ONE IN THE FIRST HALF OF
THE 20TH CENTURY HAD MORE OF AN IMPACT ON PUBLIC
EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY THAN DONOVAN."

IT IS TRUE THAT HE, LIKE HIS MENTOR DR. HENRY HARDIN
CHERRY, LEFT AN ENDURING LEGACY AT WESTERN AND
THROUGHOUT THE COMMONWEALTH. HIS IMPACT ON THE
QUALITY OF EDUCATION IN KENTUCKY, AND THEREFORE ON
THE QUALITY OF LIFE IN KENTUCKY, CANNOT BE
UNDERSTATED. THE EXAMPLE HE GAVE AND THE LEGACY HE
LEFT ARE RELEVANT MODELS FOR TODAY'S STUDENTS,
ALUMNI, AND EDUCATORS.

DR. DONOVAN WILL BE A SOURCE OF PRIDE FOR WESTERN FOR
AS YET MANY MORE GENERATIONS.

THIS YEAR'S FIRST INDUCTEE, DR. HERMAN DONOVAN...

(Lights dim)

(Video will roll)

(Lights up)
DR. DONOVAN DIED ON NOVEMBER 21, 1964 IN LEXINGTON. HIS DEDICATION TO IMPROVING THE EDUCATION FOR ALL KENTUCKIANS IS SOMETHING THAT ALUMNI OF ALL SCHOOLS IN KENTUCKY SHOULD APPRECIATE. HIS SUCCESS IN RAISING THE BAR OF EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION IS SOMETHING THAT I, AS A UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT, ADMIRE GREATLY. I AM HONORED TO ACCEPT THIS AWARD ON HIS BEHALF.

2. MAJOR GENERAL JERRY D. HUMBLE

OUR NEXT INDUCTEE IS MAJOR GENERAL JERRY D. HUMBLE. HIS INDUCTION INTO WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY’S HALL OF DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI IS THE LATEST IN A LONG LIST OF HONORS TO A MAN WHO SO HONORABLY SERVED HIS COUNTRY. I AM PROUD TO HAVE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO PERSONALLY THANK HIM FOR THAT SERVICE.
MAJOR GENERAL HUMBLE BEGAN HIS CAREER WITH THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS IN 1969, AFTER COMPLETING A SUCCESSFUL ATHLETIC AND ACADEMIC CAREER AT WESTERN. HE WENT ON TO SERVE IN VIETNAM, DESERT STORM, AND IN SEVERAL OTHER OPERATIONS. HE TOLD HIS HOMETOWN NEWSPAPER, THE RUSSELLVILLE NEWS DEMOCRAT AND LEADER, THAT THOUGH HE HAD SOME GREAT LEADERS AND ROLE MODELS TO EMULATE, HE ALWAYS LEARNED MORE FROM HIS SUBORDINATES THAN SUPERIORS. I BELIEVE THAT WILLINGNESS TO LEARN FROM OTHERS, ESPECIALLY THOSE IN YOUR COMMAND, IS THE MARK OF A GREAT LEADER.

NOW, MAJOR GENERAL HUMBLE IS IN CHARGE OF A NEW COMMAND. AFTER RETIRING IN JANUARY 2003, HE ACCEPTED YET ANOTHER CALL TO SERVICE, THIS TIME AS DIRECTOR OF TENNESSEE’S OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY. GOVERNOR PHIL BREDESEN CITED HUMBLE’S LONG AND DISTINGUISHED RECORD OF PROTECTING AMERICA WHEN HE MADE THE APPOINTMENT.
HE ADDED, "TENNESSEE IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE A LEADER WITH SUCH BROAD EXPERIENCE TO LEAD OUR HOMELAND SECURITY EFFORTS."

I ECHO THAT SENTIMENT. AND WESTERN IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE HIM AMONG THE RANKS OF OUR DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI.

OUR NEXT INDUCTEE, MAJOR GENERAL JERRY D. HUMBLE…

(Lights dim)
(Video will roll.)
(Lights up)
(Photo with honoree and President)
(Acceptance Speech)

3. DR. PAUL MCDANIEL

OUR NEXT INDUCTEE, DR. PAUL W. MCDANIEL, WAS A DIFFERENT KIND OF WAR HERO. HE WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN HELPING THE ALLIED FORCES WIN WORLD WAR II, BUT HIS EFFORTS WERE NOT MILITARY OR STRATEGIC. THE GIFT THAT HE EMPLOYED TO ENSURE THAT THE FORCES OF FREEDOM WOULD BE VICTORIOUS WAS HIS INTELLECT AND RESEARCH.
A 1936 GRADUATE OF WESTERN, DR. MCDANIEL WAS A MEMBER OF THE FIRST SENIOR R.O.T.C. CLASS. AFTERWARD, HE WAS COMMISSIONED AS SECOND LIEUTENANT IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY CHEMICAL WARFARE SERVICE.

DR. MCDANIEL’S IMPORTANT WORK BROUGHT HIM MUCH ACCLAIM AND MANY AWARDS, INCLUDING THE U.S. CIVIL SERVICE’S ARTHUR F. FLEMING AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE.

THIS YEAR’S FINAL RECIPIENT, DR. PAUL MCDANIEL...

(Lights dim)

(Video will roll.)

(Lights up and photo with honoree and President.)

DR. MCDANIEL PASSED AWAY ON MAY 31 OF THIS YEAR.

ACCEPTING ON HIS UNCLE’S BEHALF IS HIS NEPHEW WALLY MCDANIEL.

(Acceptance Speech)

Closing – Donald Smith

➢ Thank you Dr. Ransdell and Congratulations to the 2004 Class of the WKU Hall of Distinguished Alumni  (Lead Applause)

9.0 I’d like to say a special thanks to Deemer’s Florist for their help in planning today’s activities. I’d also like to thank Cheryl Beckley, Barb Deeb, and the rest of the staff at WKYU - PBS for their work on the exceptional videos you have seen today.
10.0 A list of the remaining Homecoming activities is placed at each seat today. We hope you’ll make plans to join us for the Homecoming parade at 5:30 and the Big Red Street Fest at 6:30 p.m. and then cheer on the Toppers to a victory over Indiana State at the football game tomorrow.

11.0 To close today, I’d like to ask WKU Chamber Singers to lead us in our alma mater, “College Heights.”

12.0 Thank you so much for attending and have a great Homecoming Weekend.

REVISED 10.21.04 9:00 am