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UA3/3 Commemorative Program in Observance of the Official Date of University Status

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

COMMEMORATIVE PROGRAM IN OBSERVANCE OF THE OFFICIAL DATE OF UNIVERSITY STATUS

UNVEILING OF UNIVERSITY PYLON AT MAIN ENTRANCE TO THE CAMPUS

June 16, 1966
9 a.m., CST

President Kelly Thompson, Presiding

Invocation---------------------------------- Dr. Willson E. Wood
                                          Head, Department of English

Presentation of Colors--------------------- Western ROTC Color Guard

The National Anthem----------------------- Western Choir

The Charge--------------------------------- Mr. Douglas Keen
                                          Vice Chairman, Board of Regents

Response---------------------------------- Dr. Raymond L. Cravens
                                          Vice President for Academic Affairs

Response---------------------------------- Mr. Dero G. Downing
                                          Vice President for Administrative Affairs

Unveiling of Pylon------------------------ Mr. Maxey B. Harlin
                                          Dr. J. T. Gilbert
                                          Members, Board of Regents

"College Heights"-------------------------- Western Choir

(Organ music, preceding program, by Mr. Claude Rose.)
Invocation by Dr. Willson E. Wood, Head of the Department of English, on June 16, 1966, at Commemorative Program in Observance of the Official Date of University Status.

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Our Father,

We seek divine guidance and blessing as we celebrate the occasion of a significant attainment in the life and progress of this great institution. We recognize the fact that that which is old yet would be forever new must periodically experience a rebirth and a rededication. This event which we celebrate today is such a rebirth and we who are here to mark the occasion must, under Thy divine help and guidance, experience the rededication.

May the young men and women who study here ever be worthy of the opportunities afforded, and may the faculty ever be diligent in guiding these young men and women to find on this Hilltop the spirit that makes the master.

Help us always to study, to work, and to live with open and inquiring minds; help us to achieve that which is good for us as individuals and that which is good for mankind as a whole. Accept our thanks for the many blessings which have been ours in days and years gone by and guide us throughout the days and years which lie ahead, we humbly and gratefully pray,

Amen.
The Charge by Regent Douglas Keen on June 16, 1966, at Commemorative Program, in Observance of the Official Date of University Status.

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Mr. President, Distinguished Guests, Ladies and Gentlemen:

This occasion marks the culmination of the hopes, the dreams and aspirations, and the dedicated efforts of countless people through many years, and yet -- more importantly -- it marks the dawn of new and greater opportunities for service to higher education, to the young people of this Country, and, through them, to the development and progress of our great Nation. This important milestone which we have reached today is but a stepping-stone on the pathway to still greater achievements and offers to us challenges unlimited.

So I charge each of you to serve this sacred trust well, with devotion and to the limit of your capabilities so that the great traditions of the past may be preserved, the great hopes of the future realized, our standards of excellence maintained, and Western's place in the history of education made more secure.

I can think of no greater duty nor higher calling than to teach the youth of our Country how to make life more meaningful and how to meet the complexities of modern living, nor can I think of a more lofty or exalted ambition than to wish to do this job well.

We have the plant, we have the tools, we have the raw materials, and we have the opportunity. The torch of learning burns brightly -- I charge you to guard it zealously -- to defend it courageously -- to preserve it for posterity and to forever hold it high -- and I charge you to perform these duties and responsibilities to the greater glory of Western Kentucky University. I speak for the entire Board of Regents in giving you this charge and this challenge.
Response of Dr. Raymond L. Cravens, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of the Faculties, on June 16, 1966, at Commemorative Program in Observance of the Official Date of University Status.

REGENT KEEN, REGENTS HARLIN AND GILBERT, PRESIDENT THOMPSON, FACULTY, STUDENTS, AND DISTINGUISHED GUESTS:

It is for me a signal honor on behalf of the Faculty and Academic Administration to respond to the Charge expressed in such a challenging manner by Regent Keen. Mr. Keen, as Western enters this new phase of its educational service to Kentucky and the Nation, I want to assure you and Western's many loyal friends that our purpose shall be the amplification of the greatness which is today the legitimate claim of Western Kentucky University.

As the Ruby Laser amplifies a thousand fold the inherence and potential of a beam of light, so we, the Faculty, accept as our challenge the amplification of Western's stature and potential. As we amplify the education of young men and women for leadership in the arts and sciences, education, business, and in a host of other fields and professions, we also accept your Charge to preserve and enlarge the Western traditions of commitment to academic excellence, of motivation directed toward individual and institutional improvement and advancement, and of dedication to the teaching of youth. As suggested by the motto, Western Kentucky University will generate "Life More Life" in its students, in its faculty and staff, and in Kentucky and the Nation as it amplifies knowledge, teaching, and service. Mr. Keen, we hereby dedicate our efforts and commit our talents to the Charge which you have presented.
Response of Mr. Dero G. Downing, Vice President for Administrative Affairs, on June 16, 1966, at Commemorative Program in Observance of the Official Date of University Status.

President Thompson, Members of the Board of Regents, Ladies and Gentlemen:

I have the honor on this occasion of representing the Administrative Faculty and the Staff of Western Kentucky University, and it is in their behalf that I acknowledge the charge and accept the challenge stated so eloquently by Vice-Chairman Keep for the Board of Regents.

As we pause briefly here this morning to emphasize the importance and give deserved recognition to this significant milestone in the life of Western, we renew our commitment to her purposes and objectives.

Ours is a voluntary and privileged association with this institution. We have a professional responsibility and a moral obligation to direct our energies and abilities to the successful fulfillment of every worthwhile endeavor of the school.

From this day forward let our watchwords be awareness and willingness. Awareness of the past so that we can better understand and appreciate the valued traditions and respected heritage that are our legacy. Awareness of the present so that we can better evaluate and coordinate Western's physical and human resources into ever-improving educational programs. Awareness of the future--of our opportunities to render greater service and to make a more meaningful contribution to society.

And then--growing out of this constant and continuing awareness--the willingness to give the very best of which we are capable in the performance of our duties and responsibilities so that Western can meet the challenges of this day and age and will be a truly great university.

We are aware that this is the destiny to which Western has been called, and we shall give unselfishly of ourselves to the attainment of this goal.
Concluding sentence before adjournment by President Thompson on June 16, 1966, at Commemorative Program in Observance of the Official Date of University Status.

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WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY! May you always be an inspiration to those whose lives you touch, and may you forever stand as an irresistible force for truth and honesty in the education of mind of man.

WESTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY--we hail thee!