George Richard Herbert, for more than a quarter of a century President of the Research Triangle Institute, has brilliantly shaped that Institute into an internationally renowned center that, along with the triangle universities, has ensured the success of the Research Triangle Park. Born in Michigan and educated at Michigan State University and the United States Naval Academy, he held several posts, notably at the Stanford Research Institute, before he became the first staff member of the Institute on January 1, 1959.

In the years since, the Institute has grown in size as well as importance; it employs almost 1,000 persons and has an annual budget of more than $40 million. Its research on health and environmental problems, drug metabolism, and other projects—almost 3,000, involving more than $400 million in all—has improved the quality of life for every American.

Several persons worked together to establish the Research Triangle Park, and all of them shared the vision of what that Park could be. More than any other single individual, however, George Herbert worked to convert their lofty ambitions into dynamic reality. He has found time for service outside the Institute in both private and public capacities, at local, regional and national levels. Numerous honors have come to him. This notable research administrator merits the praise of all North Carolinians.