

## DAVID McCLURE BRINKLEY

David Brinkley's unmistakable voice, softened by the accents of his North Carolina origins, has been a companionable presence in the living rooms of America for almost four decades. From the local scenes of fast-breaking news, to the arenas of national political conventions, to the news anchor's desk, to the interviewer's panel, he has kept America informed by his crisp, almost laconic, cadences, his wry sense of humor, and always a keen and trenchant intelligence. At a time in our national history when political coverage and commentaries are often banal and merely sensational, David Brinkley remains an exemplum of television journalism at its highest level.

Born in Wilmington, North Carolina, he began his career in journalism while still in high school, writing for the Wilmington Morning Star. Later, he worked for United Press in various American cities, including Charlotte, North Carolina. From that city, he responded to an invitation from CBS to go to Washington. "They had never heard of me," he remembers. "The person who invited me to come wasn't there. Nobody would talk to me. I walked two blocks to NBC and stayed 38 years." In 1951, he began reporting on NBC's Camel News Caravan, a fifteen minute nightly broadcast. Five years later, he began broadcasting what would later come to be called The Huntley-Brinkley Report, a nightly news-broadcast that continued for fourteen years. He then became co-anchor on NBC Nightly News. In 1981, he moved to ABC to become the host of This Week with David Brinkley, the highly rated Sunday interview program. In 1988 he published Washington Goes to War, a memoir of that city during World War II conveyed through personal reminiscence and reflection; it quickly became a best-seller.

His career has earned many prizes, including ten Emmy Awards and four George Foster Peabody Awards. In 1989 he was inducted into the North Carolina Journalism Hall of Fame.

As television journalism has become a dominant presence in the life of our society in the second half of the twentieth century, David Brinkley has been one of the handful of men and women who have shaped its influence and set the standard for its excellence. For this achievement, we take pride in conferring upon him this honorary degree of Doctor of Letters.