

## NELSON FEREBEE TAYLOR

It is appropriate at as this University approaches the completion of her first two centuries, she should single out for special commendation one of her most distinguished sons, N. Ferebee Taylor. His roots in the University's history run deep: his great-great-grandfather Taylor was a graduate in 1845 and his great-grandfather Ferebee in 1879. Before his own graduation three generations later, he had become Speaker of the Student Legislature and, by virtue of attaining the highest academic average in his class, President of Phi Beta Kappa.

Thirty years after his graduation, he returned to the campus as Chancellor, following two years as Vice President for Administration of the University's sixteen campuses. From his corner office on the first floor of South Building, he energetically directed a vigorous period of growth and academic enhancement from 1972 to 1980. Perhaps his greatest legacy is his devotion to the campus libraries. Upon the sale of the University's utilities, he recommended that the proceeds be applied to the construction of Davis Library, the renovation of Wilson Library, and the addition to the Health Sciences Library. Other capital improvements included the construction of the Faculty Laboratory/Office Building, the Student Health Services Building, the Wilson Library Stack Addition, the Student Union Addition, the Fetzer Gymnasium, the Hanes Art Center, and the U.N.C. Press Building. At his prompting, the Board of Trustees founded what is today known as the Board of Visitors. With the launching of the Carolina Campaign, the University's endowment resources increased more than three-fold. In 1973, the University's first Affirmative Action Plan was set into action, and the number of women and minority faculty and students increased dramatically. As testimony to his active promotion of the student Honor Code, the Ferebee Taylor Award is now presented annually to the student who most embodies a commitment to the ideals of student honor.

Following his retirement as Chancellor, he became Boshamer Professor in the U.N.C. School of Law until his retirement in 1991. He was selected by his students to receive the McCall Award for excellence in teaching in 1983.

Ferebee Taylor's many achievements on behalf of the University extend beyond alma mater. Following his graduation in 1942, he served in the United States Navy during World War II as an officer aboard destroyers, for which he earned the Bronze Star. Upon graduation from Harvard Law School, he went on to Oxford University as a Rhodes Scholar where he earned two additional degrees. For almost two decades before returning to North Carolina, he fashioned a distinguished law career in New York City.

For the great passion of his life, The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Ferebee Taylor was not afraid to look toward a visionary future. But he also understood that such dreams required the very gifts he also ably exercised: a firm grip upon the hard realities of practical implementation, a fastidious attention to detail, keenness of intellect, and singular self-discipline. Diffident, low-key in manner, and gracious, he is one of the University's most distinguished servants and singularly worthy of this honorary Doctor of Laws degree.