

DANIEL TERRY BLUE, JR.

Dan Blue is now serving his second term as Speaker of the North Carolina House of Representatives. He is the first African-American and the second youngest person to serve in that high office. Upon assuming office as Speaker, he led a turbulent 1991 session when budget shortages were in excess of \$1 billion and legislators were called upon to cut expenditures and raise taxes. In 1992, he successfully led a move to enact workplace safety laws in the aftermath of the fire and loss of life at a poultry plant in Hamlet, North Carolina.

A graduate of North Carolina Central University and Duke University School of Law, he later joined in forming his own law firm in Raleigh, North Carolina.

Elected as Wake County representative to the North Carolina House of Representatives in 1980, he has since been reelected six times. The non-partisan North Carolina Center for Public Policy has rated his effectiveness as a legislator as follows: #30 (of 120) in 1981; #6 in 1989; and, since his election as Speaker, #1.

He is the recipient of the Robert F. Kennedy-Jacob Javits Award for State Advocate of the Year in 1993. This award is given by the National Congress for Community Economic Development. He also received the Leadership Award by the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education in 1993 and was a recipient of the National 4-H Alumni Recognition award in 1991.

In remarks presented on the occasion of the Bicentennial of the Bill of Rights in 1991, Dan Blue spoke of the fact that Americans seem to be losing faith in constitutional government. He called for a new revolution, "a revolution of thinking . . . that brings us together as communities, and neighbors, and friends. That revolution should be based on . . . the need for all of us to participate in our government and to make sure it works the way we designed it." As one whose tireless efforts have helped to assure that government works the way we have designed it, this University hails a leader in the often tangled, always challenging, processes of modern government by conferring upon, Daniel T. Blue, Jr., this honorary Doctor of Laws degree.