

- Special program that completed the advanced study, the original research and dissertation, and all of the requirements of Duke University for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. It is a very special pleasure, Mr. President, to present them to you to have that highest and most honorable degree, the hallmark of academic excellence conferred upon them.

- In recognition of your long, rigorous training in a particular field of learning, and your demonstrated ability to advance knowledge in that field, I confer upon each of you the degree of Doctor of Philosophy and congratulate you as you join the company of scholars past and present, long bound together in the search for truth. Congratulations. (audience applauding) In the name of Duke University, I declare that these persons to whom degrees have been conferred are entitled to the rights and privileges pertaining to their several degrees, and that their names will be forever born on the rolls of Duke University. Congratulations. (audience applauding and cheering) I should like to call your attention to a very special group of scholars. On the basis of a great expenditure of time and effort and the possession of unusual talent, these several individuals have qualified for and received today both the Doctor of Medicine and the Doctor of Philosophy. By virtue of their unusual breadth of training, they have unique contributions to make to the biomedical complex that serves as the base of all healthcare. We confidently expect them to contribute significantly to the continuous qualitative improvement of the scientific base of healthcare in the years ahead. Would you please stand? (audience applauding) Congratulations. I pay special tribute to those students of the graduating classes who have distinguished their careers while at Duke by achieving honors and special academic awards. You will see their names and the awards they have earned near the back of the printed program. The names on these pages merit individual attention by all, and especially by parents and friends and teachers. We can only say in a collective way that we recognize these students' achievements with pride and satisfaction. They represent in a very tangible way this university's goal of leadership, excellence, and creativity in education. I shall ask them to stand so that we may show them our regard for what they have accomplished. Please stand. (audience applauding and cheering) And now, to those who contributed so much to the success of this class, in spiritual encouragement and in worldly goods, I ask all the parents and those who stand in for parents of all graduates to please rise. (audience applauding) And... Since Duke students are notoriously dilatory or forgetful, and probably have forgotten presents, or even a kind word on this special day, as their Mother's Day present, and on behalf of all graduates, I would like to ask all mothers and grandmothers and those who stand in for them to please stand. (audience applauding and cheering) Mr. President, it is my pleasure to present to you the name of chancellor in Ferebee Taylor who is a candidate for the honorary degree of Doctors of Laws. The nomination has been approved by the faculties and by the board of trustees. Professor Dellinger will escort the candidate to the platform. (audience laughing) I suppose I read this. Nelson Ferebee Taylor, distinguished chancellor of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, you have set the highest of standards for all who labor... (audience laughing) for all who labor in the cause of higher education in America. You exemplify deep devotion to the nurturing of excellence in scholarship and teaching, and you have attained imminent success in that endeavor. As a native son of North Carolina, as a graduate of her oldest university, which you

now serve, you demonstrate a commitment to the great traditional values, the highest ideals of both your state and your alma mater. 28 years after your graduation from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, you returned to that institution to offer it your leadership. The qualities that prepared you so well for your present duties were developed as an honor student, a Rhodes Scholar, during wartime service in the United States Navy, which awarded you the bronze star, during the study of law at Harvard University, and finally, as a member of the New York Bar, respected for your legal craftsmanship and your personal rectitude. The achievements of your seven years at Chapel Hill are a shining source of inspiration to all who serve in the academic field. We, your neighbors here in the Duke Community, have observed you from up close. And for us, your example glows even more brightly. By the authority vested in me, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws and I admit you to its rights, its privileges and its obligations. (audience applauding) (audience applauding)

- Mr. President, it is my privilege to present to you the name of Perry Como, who is a candidate for the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. The nomination has been approved by the faculties and by the board of trustees. Professor Jay Arena will present the candidate to the platform. (audience applauding and cheering) Very good. (men chatting indistinctly)

- Perry Como. (audience applauding and cheering) As humanitarian, and as entertainer, you are recognized and held in affection and esteem, not only in America but throughout the world. Your following of fans and admirers is not bound by geographical lines, nor is your appeal as a man of music limited in terms of time, but greater than these is the extent of your caring for your fellow human being, and the sharing of your talents in behalf of suffering humankind. You have brightened the days of the sick and the disadvantaged, hospitalized veterans, the children of the land, and all of those who wage battles against cancer and other diseases can testify to your concern for them, and your desire to alleviate their pain and to lift their spirits. We at the Duke and Durham Communities have heard your song and have had our hearts gladdened. You have entertained our students, faculty, and townspeople with Easter concerts. You have sung in our chapel, and you have encouraged our students in music. We have also heard the song of your life, and our hearts especially gladdened by your personal concern and dedicated work for the children in Duke Hospital. By using your art as a means of expressing your Goodwill, you have given unselfishly of yourself over the years. And so by the authority vested in me, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters. And I admit you to its rights, its privileges, and its obligations. (audience applauding) (audience cheering) (audience laughing)

- Mr. President, it's a very real honor and deep pleasure to present to you the name of Chancellor Lewis Carnegie Dowdy, for the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. The nomination has been approved by the faculties and the board of trustees, and professor Lawrence Goodwin will escort the candidate to the platform. (audience applauding)

- Lewis Carnegie Dowdy, scholar, educator civic leader in the state of North Carolina for 40 years, you have risen to national prominence in American higher education as president of the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges. You brought vigorous and innovative leadership to the organization that represents 130 public institutions of higher education across America, the more than 30% of all college

students in the nation. As a distinguished president of North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University you have served for over a decade as one of the driving forces for excellence in mass education within the state of North Carolina. Unafraid of new ideas and experiment, you have wrought changes which have served as models for other colleges and universities throughout the South and the nation. Perhaps most important of all, in human terms, your own personal quest for an education speaks to all of the young of America for it was a quest that carried you from behind a plow mule on a South Carolina farm to a Bachelor of Arts degree from Allen University in 1939. And then through many summers of work, to a Master of Arts Degree from Indiana State College in 1949, and to a doctorate in education from the University of Indiana in 1965, your remarkable tenacity, sustained for more than a generation as you taught the young, raised your own family, and helped lead North Carolina through the important and necessary changes of the 1960s, stands as a convincing testament to mankind's capacity for, and commitment to a free and democratic life. The years that lie ahead promised the possibility of further change. And we, in this state in this nation, are fortunate to have your example, your experience, and your vision. Your life and your work provides substance for the hopes of all people. And so by the authority vested in me, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws and admit you to its rights, its privileges, and its obligations. (audience applauding) (audience applauding)

- Mr. President, it is my warm pleasure to present to you and to all of those assembled here, ambassador George Frost Kennan as a candidate for the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws. Ambassador Kennan's nomination has been approved by the faculties through the academic council and by the board of trustees of Duke University. I now call on his faculty sponsor, Professor Orly Rudolph Holstein to escort to this platform ambassador George Frost Kennan. (audience applauding)

- George Frost Kennan, we honor you today for two distinguished careers. First, as a diplomat, whose years of service span some of the most crucial in our nation's history. And second is a historian whose writings have done much to illuminate the challenges and opportunities arising from America's relations with friends and adversaries. Your perceptive diplomatic reports from Moscow served as the intellectual foundations for much of American foreign policy after World War II. As director of the State Department policy planning staff, you had made your responsibilities for the creating of the Marshall Plan, an undertaking that represented the best in America's global leadership and humane concern. Since retiring from government service, your many writings, unmatched in insight and style, have placed you among the most thoughtful analysts of international affairs in American foreign policy and Soviet-American relations. Duke University is proud to join the many other institutions that have recognized your distinguished contributions to our nation's foreign policy, and to our clearer understanding of America's role in the world. By the authority vested in me, I confer upon you the degree of Doctor of Laws, and I admit you to its rights, its privileges, and its obligations. (audience applauding) (audience applauding) That presentation was by WM Upchurch, who's been a trustee a long time and has just made a trustee emeritus. I think with all that verb and spirit, maybe we ought to put him on active duty again. (audience laughing) (audience applauding) I call your attention to your program where you see listed the names of 12 members of the faculty and administrative staff of the university who have retired since commencement of 1976, or are retiring at the end of the present academic year. Some have reached mandatory retirement age and others are taking early retirement. The sum total of their years of service to Duke University is 336 years. These retiring members,

through their dedication, contributions as teachers, administrators, researchers, and practitioners have shared significantly in the growth of Duke University. To each, we owe a debt beyond measure. I counted a privilege to have a part in recognizing before this assembly their long careers of distinctive service to our university. I shall ask those members of the retiring group who are present to stand as I call their names so that you might recognize that significant service to Duke. Leon Chaiken, Professor of Forest Management for 25 years at Duke. (audience applauding) Gwendoline Fortune, for 13 years, Professor of Nursing. (audience applauding) Ellen S. Halpert, Professor of Education, serving Duke for 21 years. (audience applauding) L. Siegfried Linda Roth, Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Duke for 12 years. (audience applauding) Harold T. Parker, Professor of History for 38 years. (audience applauding and cheering) I was in San Francisco with Professor Parker one Sunday morning where he had flown all night to arrive. They had to receive the most significant award given to a professor in a Methodist-related college or university, and he received the award about 10 o'clock and I said, now you've never been to San Francisco before. I've got some things I wanna show you. He said, "Oh no, I have a 12:05 plane home." And I said, "Cancel it." "Stay here with me and I'll show you some good times." (audience laughing) He said, "Oh no, I've got a Monday morning class." (audience laughing) And I think his dedication is legendary. And I think you've shown him that. (audience applauding) Louella Herhane, Associate Professor of Health Education for 30 years. (audience applauding) And James H. Phillips, Professor of Religion for 31 years. (audience applauding) Is that all? The next thing on the program, if you are following it, and not just fanning with it... (audience laughing) Indicates that the president is to deliver a message. (audience laughing) Well, I've always felt when we've come to this part in the program, like most of your mothers probably felt when you were coming to Duke in the first place. As you were leaving in the car, on the bus, or whatever, she wanted to run after you and say, "Oh, I've forgotten one or two things," but she had taken you to the place of leaving home and coming here. And I think our faculty and your fellow students have brought you to the place where you may go now without any more advice from me. To put it another way, we've done about all for you we can. (audience laughing) I do want to say to you that I have appreciated the association, especially the the seniors who are graduating, who have worked so hard to demonstrate what I think is the the best of the Duke spirit: your concern for other people, your concern for the future of Duke. And your class particularly has shown that concern by your work to raise scholarship funds and to raise funds to assure that we have a new university center, and your participation in that has made it a reality. And it's going to be. Also, I think you demonstrate a spirit that's recognized now all over the country, because this year, in spite of all other indications around the country, Duke University had the highest number of applicants for next year's freshman class in all the history of Duke University. (audience applauding) And the reason for that... And the reason for that, I know, is that you are going home and talking to high school students, and telling them, whatever you say to me I know better because you've been telling 'em that Duke is a great intellectual place. (audience laughing) Witness, you. (audience laughing) And you've been letting them know about your spirit and your feeling about Duke. And we do appreciate that. And as Secretary Krepp said, don't let go of what you had when you came and what you've gotten. I hope you'll not let go of that spirit. And I hope you will not let go of that love for your university, Duke University. So go now with the assurance that Duke has pride in your competence, your concerns, and your spirit, and that your Alma mater deeply appreciates, in every sense of the word, you and the enrichment you have brought to Duke University as a student. Congratulations. (audience applauding)

- Let us all stand to sing the alma mater. (audience cheering) (horns solemnly playing) ♪ Dear old Duke, thy name we'll sing ♪ ♪ To thee our voices raise ♪ ♪ We'll raise ♪ ♪ To thee our anthems ring ♪ ♪ In everlasting praise ♪ ♪ And though on life's broad sea ♪ ♪ Our fates may far us bear ♪ ♪ We'll ever turn to thee ♪ ♪ Our Alma Mater dear ♪ (audience cheering) (audience applauding) (horn solemnly playing)

- Let us pray. Oh, holy, loving, merciful God. The time of celebration, of commemoration, and graduation is ending. May each of us leave this service and this place with a clearer sense of what is just and right, a nobler sense of what is true and pure, a deeper sense of what is real and lasting. Help each of us not only to see the ideal, but to strive continually for it. Not only to know the right, but to seek always to do it. Not only to recognize our duty, but to try earnestly to follow it. Not only to yearn for the truth, but to search to understand it. And so we go from this place, oh God, not knowing what lies ahead but we rest our weakness in your strength. Take us and do for us what we cannot do, and make of us who we cannot be. But for your grace, in your loving name, we pray. Amen. (marching band joyfully playing)