

# DAVID S. BRODER

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree, DAVID S. BRODER: national political correspondent and columnist for *The Washington Post*; Pulitzer Prize recipient for distinguished commentary; reflective and insightful author of four classic analyses of the American political system; frequent commentator on radio and television network news programs; first recipient of the American Political Science Association's award that annually honors a major journalistic contributor to the understanding of politics; selected by his political columnist colleagues as "America's most respected political reporter" and recognized throughout the nation, to quote Timothy Crouse, as "the high priest of political journalism, the most powerful and respected man in the trade."

Graduating at the age of eighteen from the University of Chicago (another great midwestern private institution of higher learning!), David Broder began his career in journalism in 1953 as a reporter for *The Daily Pantagraph* in Bloomington, Illinois. He moved to Washington in 1955 and for five years covered national politics for the highly regarded *Congressional Quarterly* (a publication described by the APSA as "indispensable political journalism—a staple of our profession" and praised by *The Washingtonian* for its "respectability and authority among all factions and ideologies"). In 1960, he moved to the *Washington Star*, before becoming national political reporter for *The New York Times* in 1965. He joined the staff of *The Washington Post* in 1966 and became an associate editor in 1975. His twice-weekly syndicated column is carried by 275 newspapers across the nation (including our local *Gazette*).

Mr. Broder has covered every national and major state political campaign since 1960, traveling 100,000 miles a year to get the correct, current, on-the-spot information. His four books (one on the Republican Party; one on the decline and, in his view, the needed strengthening of both political parties; one on the 1980's new generation of leaders in American politics; and one, published last year, concerning the Washington press corps and questioning how well it is doing its job of covering the news) form an essential bibliography for any student of politics or any citizen concerned about the future of the American political system. On the academic level, Mr. Broder has been a Fellow of the Institute of Politics at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, has been a Fellow of the Institute of Policy Sciences and Public Affairs at Duke University, and in 1975 spent one week on this campus of Kalamazoo College as a Woodrow Wilson Visiting Scholar (an event that all of us here remember well and with fondness).

Most impressive of all the material in Mr. Broder's background is the praise heaped upon him by his colleagues (and competitors) in the Washington press corps. A 1980 American University survey of that group of journalists concluded: "David Broder's integrity and hard work have led him to be anointed the unofficial 'chairman of the board' by national political writers ... He heads an elite clan whose articles are carefully watched by the public, politicians, and most important, other reporters." Martin F. Nolan has written: "Broder is the single most influential voice in American presidential politics because he knows the territory and sticks to it ... [yet] He has that rare trait among American journalists—modesty ..." He is "self-conscious about the 'power' of the press that he personifies, outwardly serene, but burning inside with a missionary zeal to surrender his power and redistribute it to the politicians who stand in his awe." And James Kilpatrick, in an article last year, wrote: "...In the news business, this long, tall, skinny guy in the glasses is a professional's professional ... David Broder's conscience provides a clear star for all of us to steer by."

Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that DAVID S. BRODER be awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.