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William G. Milliken

Mr. President, I have the honor to present as a candidate for an honorary degree, WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN: official representative of our State Community; dedicated state governmental legislator and Chief Executive; a nationally recognized Leader of Leaders; and a long-time friend and public supporter of private higher education.

At this Commencement in which Kalamazoo College is recognizing and celebrating its historic relationships with the Community about us, it is indeed appropriate that we honor the Senior Public Official of the State of Michigan. Since 1833, Kalamazoo College and the State of Michigan have labored jointly in the task of providing quality higher education. In receiving this honorary degree, Governor Milliken represents and symbolizes the State Community with which this institution has been associated for 145 years.

Moreover, it is especially appropriate that we honor a Governor who during his years in that Office has always placed public and private higher education proposals near the top of his recommended programs. As a result, during the last nine years the State of Michigan has been one of the national leaders in its development of innovative means to help insure the quality of all Michigan colleges and universities.

A graduate of Yale University (another great private institution of higher learning), Governor Milliken has served this State as a member and majority floor leader of the Michigan Senate, as Lieutenant Governor for four years, and since 1969 as Governor of the State of Michigan. He has served as chairman of the Midwestern Governors' Conference and as chairman of the National Governors' Association. He is currently presiding as president of the Council of State Governments and as chairman of the New Coalition (a coordinating organization of Governors, state legislators, county officials, and local mayors).

This year, Governor Milliken was selected by his fellow Governors as the most influential Governor in the nation; and in recent years he has been honored by national organizations and indeed by foreign nations for his contributions to "the effective administration of justice" and in recognition of his support of intercultural exchanges.

Therefore, on behalf of the Faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that WILLIAM G. MILLIKEN, Governor of Michigan, be awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws.