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Ray T. Parfet

Mr. President, I have the privilege of presenting RAY T. PARFET, business executive, community leader, and social humanitarian as a candidate for an honorary degree.

Born in Port Huron, raised in Kalamazoo, and educated at the University of Michigan, Ted Parfet has been a positive force here and abroad for over three decades. As an officer (since 1947) and Chairman of the Board (since 1969), he helped The Upjohn Company grow from a family business into an international, multi-plant, diversified corporation without reducing its traditional concern for the individual or diluting its standards of scientific research. As a member of the governing boards of the Bronson Methodist Hospital, the Kalamazoo Foundation, the National 4-H Council (and many others), he has served unstintingly. As a concerned citizen he has given quietly but generously to educational institutions, health clinics, and social agencies. On several occasions his abiding interest in Kalamazoo caused him to devote his energy, talent, and resources to enterprises that otherwise would have been unattainable.

Because he has, by action and belief, personified the ideas and ideals dear to Kalamazoo College and the larger community, and because he represents the enlightened view of higher education that has characterized the relationship between Kalamazoo College and The Upjohn Company, and other local business interests, I recommend, on behalf of the Faculty, that RAY T. PARFET be awarded the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.