

GENEVIEVE U. GILMORE

Mr. President, I have the honor and privilege of presenting as a candidate for an honorary degree GENEVIEVE U. GILMORE, an outstanding contributor to the development of the arts in our community and a long-time friend of Kalamazoo College.

After attending Dana Hall in Wellesley, Massachusetts and Western Michigan University, Mrs. Gilmore began an inspired career of community service. Her perceptions, sharpened by training as a painter and broadened by studies as an art collector, have guided her sensibilities and vision. She has been a major force in providing all citizens with experiences in music, theatre, and art. One of her first commitments to the cultural spirit of this community was in 1921 assisting the development of the Kalamazoo Symphony Orchestra. She continued to serve the Symphony as a board member and now holds an honorary life membership in the Symphony Society. Her love for the arts extended to almost twenty years of service on the board of the Kalamazoo Civic Auditorium, a distinguished contribution for which she has been named an honorary trustee.

This community has an outstanding art center because of the leadership and financial support provided by her and her late husband, Donald S. Gilmore. Mrs. Gilmore's role in the development of the Genevieve and Donald Gilmore Art Center included being a board member, president, and honorary director. The state-wide impact of her enthusiastic patronage of the arts has been recognized through awards from the Michigan Council for the Arts and the Michigan Foundation of the Arts.

In addition, all of us have been the beneficiaries of Mrs. Gilmore's wisdom and support through her membership on the board of the Greater Kalamazoo United Way, Pretty Lake Vacation Camp, Service Club of Kalamazoo, Inc., Bronson Methodist Hospital, the W.E. Upjohn Institute for Employment Research, the Upjohn Company, and others.

Mrs. Gilmore's sensitive leadership has helped to develop a thriving environment for the arts. Her contributions have been in honor and in celebration of the human experience, and as such she has added immeasurable richness to our lives.

Therefore, on behalf of the faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon GENEVIEVE U. GILMORE be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Humane Letters.