

## E. GIFFORD UPJOHN

Mr. President, it is my great honor to present to you E. GIFFORD UPJOHN, physician, administrator, businessman and civic leader, as a candidate for an honorary degree. Receiving bachelor's and medical degrees from the University of Michigan, Gifford Upjohn began his career at The Upjohn Company as a stock boy and rose to become its chairman. With his guidance, The Upjohn Company expanded its horizons to become a multi-national pharmaceutical and research organization. It was Gifford Upjohn's conviction that the pharmaceutical manufacturer has a responsibility to the medical profession, not only as a supplier of reliable drug preparations, but as a service organization acting in every possible way to foster medical progress; this conviction is still the motivating influence at the company today.

Gifford Upjohn had already served in the shipping, sales and production divisions of The Upjohn Company when he was called upon to establish a separate medical division, a clinical testing program that would be charged with guiding and directing the research and development of new products. It was through the activities of the medical division that the company gained national recognition as a research organization; it also marked the beginning of the era of clinical testing. Under Gifford Upjohn's direction, life-saving drugs were developed — heparin, for the prevention of blood clots; Gelfoam, the absorbable gelatin sponge used as a surgical dressing; and Orinase, the oral antidiabetic drug that spurred much research into diabetes — these are but a few of his contributions to modern medicine. Prominent among his other contributions was his appearance before the Kefauver Subcommittee on Antitrust and Monopoly in the United States Senate. As a result of his testimony, Dr. Louis Lasagna, head of pharmacology at Johns Hopkins University, was compelled to describe The Upjohn Company as “as talented and principled a group of physicians as probably can be found in the drug industry.”

Gifford Upjohn has been a leader in the pharmaceutical profession, having served on the boards of such organizations as the World Medical Association, the National Vitamin Foundation, the Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association and the American Foundation for Pharmaceutical Education. The Kalamazoo community has also benefitted from his leadership on the city commission, the Chamber of Commerce, the Community Chest, the YMCA, the Airport Advisory Board, and the Borgess Hospital Advisory Board. He also served as a trustee of the Kellogg Foundation and the W.E. Upjohn Unemployment Trustee Corporation.

Gifford Upjohn's contributions to the health-care profession have earned him honorary degrees from the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, St. Louis College of Pharmacy and Science, and Western Michigan University, as well as a place on the Michigan Health Council Hall of Fame. It is appropriate that Kalamazoo College so honor this man who has been characterized as a quiet leader with ethics beyond reproach. Therefore, on behalf of the faculty of Kalamazoo College, I recommend that upon E. GIFFORD UPJOHN be conferred the honorary degree, Doctor of Laws.