



# Oklahoma State University

OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

STILLWATER, OKLAHOMA, 74078  
WHITEHURST HALL  
(405) 624-6384

February 14, 1983

Mr. Ferdie Deering  
The Daily Oklahoman  
P.O. Box 25125  
Oklahoma City, OK 73125

Dear Ferdie:

Each year Oklahoma State University honors unusually outstanding individuals by presenting them the "Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award," in memory of the man who served this University as President from 1928 to 1951.

At our meeting on January 28, the Selection Committee unanimously voted to name you as a recipient of the award, and if you will agree to accept it, we will go to the OSU Board of Regents for confirmation at its March 4 meeting.

Attached to this letter is a statement outlining the criteria for selection, and a list of those who have received it since its inception in 1969.

The "Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award" consists of a citation and medallion and is presented as a part of our Commencement exercises. The program this year will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, May 7, in Lewis Field Stadium on campus. We do not give the award in absentia, and we sincerely hope you will be with us on this occasion to receive the award. I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience so that we may make preparation for the presentation.

If you will be with us May 7 to receive the award, I would appreciate receiving a biographical sketch and recent photograph for publicity purposes.

Sincerely yours,

L. L. Boger  
President

LLB:slk

Enclosures

## "HENRY G. BENNETT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD"

It is recommended that there be established the "Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award" at Oklahoma State University. Since Oklahoma State University does not have authority to grant honorary degrees, it is proposed that this award be given at the time of Commencement to outstanding citizens whom the University would like to recognize. It is deemed appropriate that this award be given in the name of the late President Bennett who made such outstanding contributions to this University, to higher education, and to the benefit of mankind as the first director of the Point 4 program for technical assistance to nations around the world. It is expected that the award would usually not be given to more than one person each year and that there would be some years in which no award would be made. We think this is essential in order to establish and maintain the prestige of the award. In addition to the citation concerning the achievements of the awardee, an appropriately inscribed "medallion" would be presented.

The following criteria shall be used as a basis for selecting the person to receive the award: "The recipient of this award may be an alumnus of the University, a citizen of the state or nation or a distinguished world citizen. His or her record of achievement and qualities of leadership and service must be truly outstanding and merit this high award of recognition given by the University. He or she should possess the high ideals of citizenship and service and those qualities of character which exemplify the life of the man in whose name this award is made. The person should have had a distinguished career in a professional field, some phase of business or industry, government service or humanitarian concern." The selection committee shall be composed of the following: President of the University, Chairman of the Board of Regents, Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Faculty Council, President of the OSU Alumni Association, and one citizen at large. Any person on or off the campus may make nominations to the committee. Each person selected to receive this award must have the approval of the OSU Board of Regents.

The first "Henry G. Bennett Distinguished Service Award" was made at the Spring Commencement of 1969.

FORMER RECIPIENTS OF THE  
HENRY G. BENNETT DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD

- |      |    |   |             |                     |
|------|----|---|-------------|---------------------|
| 1969 | -- | Frank Borman<br>James A. Lovell, Jr.<br>William A. Anders   | )<br>)<br>) | Apollo 8 astronauts |
| 1970 | -- | His Imperial Majesty Haile Selassie<br>Dr. Oliver S. Willham, President Emeritus, OSU<br>Dr. George Gant, Ford Foundation   |             |                     |
| 1971 | -- | The Honorable Carl Albert, Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives   |             |                     |
| 1972 | -- | Mr. Paul Miller, President of Gannett Company, Inc.<br>Mr. Walker Stone, President of Scripps-Howard Foundation<br>Mr. M. B. "Bud" Seretean, President of Coronet Industries  |             |                     |
| 1973 | -- | Mr. E. K. Gaylord, President and Publisher, Oklahoma Publishing Company, Oklahoma City<br>Mr. Stanley Draper, Retired Executive Officer, Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce<br>Mr. James E. Webb, Former Administrator of NASA   |             |                     |
| 1974 | -- | Mr. Dean A. McGee, Chief Executive Officer of the Kerr-McGee Company<br>Mr. Jenkin Lloyd Jones, Editor and Publisher, <u>Tulsa Tribune</u><br>Mr. William T. Payne, Chairman of the Board, Big Chief Drilling Company, and an independent oil producer; also former member, Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education |             |                     |
| 1975 | -- | Mr. Henry Bellmon, former Governor of Oklahoma; United States Senator<br>Mr. Mike Wright, Chairman of the Board of Exxon Company, Houston, Texas<br>Mr. Raymond A. Young, Chairman of the Board, TG&Y Stores  |             |                     |
| 1976 | -- | Governor Raymond Gary, former Governor of Oklahoma<br>Dr. Angie Debo, author and former director of the Federal Writers project of Oklahoma<br>Mr. W. D. "Jim" Finney, former member of the Board of Regents for the Oklahoma State University  |             |                     |
| 1977 | -- | No award presented  |             |                     |
| 1978 | -- | Mr. Earl Russell, Duncan, Oklahoma -- member of the original OSU Board of Regents; rancher, cattleman   |             |                     |
| 1979 | -- | Dean Emeritus Lela O'Toole -- Division of Home Economics, OSU   |             |                     |

- 1980 -- Dr. E. T. Dunlap, Chancellor of the Oklahoma State Regents  
for Higher Education  
Dr. Melvin D. Jones, President of Mark Twain Life Insurance Company;  
author, former diplomat, and former professor at OSU  
Judge Juanita Kidd Stout, Judge of the Common Pleas Court in  
Philadelphia
- 1981 -- Mr. F. M. "Pete" Bartlett, Tulsa executive and philanthropist  
Dr. M. R. Lohmann, Dean Emeritus, OSU College of Engineering
- 1982 -- Mr. Henry Payne Iba, internationally renowned sports personality,  
former OSU basketball coach and athletic director, and three-time  
Olympic coach  
Mr. Fred Merrifield, long-time agricultural leader  
Dr. Francis Tuttle, director of the Oklahoma Department of Vocational-  
Technical Education