

# **JAMES S. WACHS**

## ***CINCINNATI '55***

*Cincinnati, Ohio, November 8, 2008* — The prestigious Francis Wayland Shepardson award was bestowed posthumously upon James S. Wachs, *Cincinnati '55*, at a General Fraternity Alumni Appreciation Dinner held in Cincinnati, Ohio, November 8.

Wachs served as General Treasurer from 1973-76 and on the Advisory Council from 1976 until his death in 2008. He was a Fund Trustee from 1973-77, a position that was the forerunner of the directors of the Beta Theta Pi Foundation. He was instrumental in establishing the Beta Foundation, again serving as a board member from its inception, 1993-2000. Jim completed his term as Foundation Chairman.

As Beta's official legal counsel to the administrative secretary and Board of Trustees for more than 30 years, Jim provided advice on all legal and tax matters, facilitating the development of today's chapter services, risk management and fund-raising activities of the General Fraternity and Foundation. After his death, his estate gift prompted *The Beta Theta Pi* to feature him as a member of *The Bridge Builder Society* in the *A Lasting Moment* feature of the magazine.

Advisory Council Member Robert L. Cottrell, *Miami '54* reflects, "As a peer District Chief, Trustee, Foundation Board Director, and as our legal counsel during my term as Administrative Secretary, Jim was an invaluable mentor in my Beta experience."

"Jim served on the Beta Bu Building Company for five decades providing his characteristic wit and wisdom, always with humility and a profound self-deprecating humor. Jim would express his pride for the Cincinnati's chapter's progress and awards by saying he would never be admitted with their current standards. We all knew better," recalls Advisory Council Member Thomas D. Cassady, *Cincinnati '76*.

For 49 years, he practiced law as a member of Frost Brown Todd LLC (formerly known as Frost & Jacobs). His practice focused on estate planning, estate administration and the representation of numerous family and closely held businesses. Jim was a highly respected lawyer, not just in Cincinnati, but state-wide. He was a fellow of the American College of Trust and Estate Counsel, an Ohio Super Lawyer, and was included in the Best Lawyers in America since its first publication.

In addition to his law practice, Jim and his brother, Gary, *Cincinnati '58*, were owner/operators of the 152 unit Garfield Suites Hotel, located in Cincinnati. A life-long Cincinnati, Jim was a graduate of Walnut Hills High School, the University of Cincinnati and a graduate of Harvard College of Law.

He got a great deal of satisfaction from his many charitable endeavors. In addition to his own personal philanthropy, Jim was very active on many foundation boards, including Cincinnati Bar Association, Cincinnati Rotary, University of Cincinnati, Emery Memorial, Jack J. Smith, Louise Hannaford and Beta Theta Pi. He was also a long-time member of the Cincinnati Commonwealth and Commercial Club, the Banker's Club, the United Way de Tocqueville Society and Ryland Lakes Country Club, where he was a past president.

His survivors include his wife of 24 years, Karen; son, Randy; daughter and son-in-law, Jenny and Doug Wyatt and five grandchildren.