

William H. (Bert) Bates

Missouri '49

Oxford Roll N° 027

Leadership in his profession and community as well as unselfish devotion to his fraternity and alma mater have characterized four decades of an outstanding career of W. H. (Bert) Bates, *Missouri '49*.

Bert served as chairman of the Kansas City law firm of Lathrop & Norquist (now Lathrop & Gage) and was formerly chair of its Managing Partner Committee. Former general counsel of the Midwest Gas Users Association and the Chamber of Commerce for a Greater Kansas City, he is a panelist of the Center of Public Resources, Inc.; a certified arbitrator of the American Arbitration Association and a former president of the Kansas City Bar Assn. Foundation.

Induction into the Zeta Phi Chapter Wall of Fame in 1994 has followed such recognition as the 1984 Distinguished Non-Alumni Award of the School of Law of the University of Missouri-Columbia; the 1984 Man of the Year Award of the Kansas City Beta Alumni Chapter; and the University of Missouri's 1990 Distinguished Alumnus Award, both its Presidential Citation and its Geyer Award for Service Public Education in 1991 and its 1992 Distinguished Friend Award.

Former chairman of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, he was 1985 recipient of its Brotherhood Award, the YMCA's 1986 Distinguished Service Award and 1988 honoree of Kansas City Tomorrow Celebration of Leadership.

A veteran of World War II Army service, he was initiated as N° 981 on the roll of the Zeta Phi chapter as first man in his class March 13, 1948, and was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. He was chapter vice president and attended the 1948 Beta Convention at Mackinac.

At the University of Michigan School of Law, where he received the degree Juris Doctor in 1952, he was *Law Review* senior editor. After law school, he was a special assistant attorney general of Missouri followed by five years as secretary and attorney for the Board of Police Commissioners of Kansas City.

He is past president of the Missouri Bar and former member of the House of Delegates of the American Bar Assn. He received the Justice Charles Evans Whitaker Award for Outstanding Service from the Lawyers Assn. of Kansas City and the President's Citation *Pro Bono* Award of the Missouri Bar. He has been Missouri chairman of Fellows of the American Bar Foundation and an officer and liaison to the executive committee, Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Assn.

Past president of the University of Missouri System Board of Curators, he is a member of the Board of Trustees of the University of Kansas City the Midwest Research Institute and is chairman of the Trustees of Central United Methodist Church, Kansas City, member of the Missouri Academy of Squires and former chairman of the Board of The Hawthorn Foundation. He also served as chairman of the Missouri State Chamber of Commerce and chairman of the Greater Kansas City Chamber of Commerce, whose Board he served for nearly three decades.

Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, Historian