

BURTON W. FOLSOM, *NEBRASKA* '49 PAUL P. VAN RIPER, *DEPAUW* '38

Kansas City, Missouri, August 9, 2002 — Two outstanding members of the Beta Theta Pi Fraternity were presented with the Francis Wayland Shepardson award at the 163rd General Convention in Kansas City, Missouri: Burton W. Folsom, *Nebraska* '49, and Paul P. Van Riper, *DePauw* '38.

Folsom is one of only two Betas to serve in the top three roles in the Fraternity — general secretary, president and general treasurer. Folsom began his service as chapter counselor to Alpha Tau, Nebraska chapter, 1958-62, then general treasurer, 1964-67; general secretary, 1967-71; alumni affairs commissioner, 1975-77; fund trustee, 1984-87, and president of the Fraternity, 1987-90. He was a key person in Lincoln (Nebraska) Beta alumni activities and a founder of the Austin (Texas) Beta Club. Folsom has attended 34 General Conventions. In 1994, he was honored as the Beta's 20th Oxford Cup recipient. Folsom is the seventh Beta in a Nebraska Folsom line that totals 10, including his son, Thomas L. Folsom, *Westminster* '74. While in the European Theater with the 1st Infantry Army Division, Folsom earned the Bronze Star and a Purple Heart. Completing his bachelor's degree in 1949, he was back in uniform, 1950-51, in the Army, 36th Combat Engineer Group at Camp McCoy, Wis. In 1963, he earned a master's degree from Indiana University School of Finance. Folsom was CEO of the Nebraska Central Building & Loan Assn. and director of the Nebraska Savings and Loan League. He served as president, Executive Club of Lincoln; chairman, Employee Division, United Way, and president, Country Club of Lincoln. He was clerk of session and chairman of the board of trustees for the Westminster Presbyterian Church. Currently, Folsom is a trustee of University of Nebraska Foundation.

Van Riper is a recognized leader of the General Fraternity. He was secretary, General Convention, 1949; president, General Convention, 1959; scholarship commissioner, 1961-64; vice president, 1962-63, and general secretary, 1963-65. Van Riper has attended 35 General Conventions. He was instrumental in founding Beta's Texas A&M chapter, and was chapter counselor, house corporation president and faculty advisor of the chapter. His most memorable Beta event was Francis Shepardson's participation in his 1935 initiation into the Fraternity. He was a district chief for 10 years, member of the house corporation boards of DePauw, Cornell and Texas A&M chapters and chapter counselor of the latter two. Van Riper began teaching at Northwestern University in 1947, then was on the faculty at Cornell before advancing to Texas A&M in 1970, as head of the department of political science. He stepped down in 1977 to concentrate on teaching and community leadership. Van Riper is professor emeritus of political science and professor of public administration at the George Bush School of Government and Public Service. A charter member of American Society for Public Administration, he is considered one of the stalwarts in the field. In 1990 he received the Dwight Waldo award in recognition of his lifetime achievements and contributions to the field. Earlier last spring, Van Riper was presented with the inaugural Paul P. Van Riper award, recognizing his contribution to bridging the world of public administration scholarship and practice. During World War II, he served four years in the Quartermaster Corps, U.S. Army — two in U.S. and two in England and France. Van Riper has authored or co-authored more than 50 articles, including *History of the United States Civil Service*, *The Wilson Influence on Public Administration* and *Handbook of Practical Politics*.