

Ohio  
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**PRESIDENT ROCK JONES' INTRODUCTION OF SEN. JOHN MCCAIN**

**Sunday, May 9, 2010**

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## 2010 COMMENCEMENT REMARKS

Rock Jones, Ph.D., President of Ohio Wesleyan University  
May 9, 2010

Ohio Wesleyan University has a long heritage of preparing graduates for leadership and service in every sector of society. We are heirs of an especially proud tradition of preparation for public service. Our older alumni, including perhaps some who are among us today, recall well the Arneson pledge. Dr. Ben Arneson was professor of politics and government at Ohio Wesleyan from 1917 to 1953.

Each year, at the conclusion of the semester, Dr. Arneson distributed a card to each member of his class, asking the students to read and sign the following pledge: "with a view to serving the public interest and regardless of the nature of my future vocations I pledge that, upon leaving college, I will devote a portion of my time to active and definite participation in public affairs." Tens of thousands of OWU alumni have reflected the Arneson pledge through engagement in public affairs of all sorts. Today we are pleased to have with us the Honorable David Hobson, class of 1959, who served nine terms as a member of Congress before his retirement last year. I also bring greetings to the class of 2010 from United States Representative Jo Ann Emerson, class of 1972, who hoped to be present but is tending to business in her home district in southeast Missouri.

While he did not attend Ohio Wesleyan, few individuals in our society reflect more fully the spirit of the Arneson Pledge than our Commencement speaker. A federal lawmaker since 1982, when he was elected to the House of Representatives in the state of Arizona, he has a remarkable record of leadership and experience, reflecting an unwavering lifelong commitment to service, and passionate pursuit of reforms in Washington.

The Honorable John S. McCain was elected to the U.S. Senate in 1986, and was the 2008 Republican presidential candidate. He served as the ranking member of the Senate Armed Services Committee and is a member of the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources; Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions; Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs; and the Committee on Indian Affairs. Senator McCain's leadership in a bipartisan effort to overhaul the nation's campaign finance system resulted in the passage of landmark legislation in 2001, upheld again by the Supreme Court in 2003.

The son and grandson of distinguished Navy admirals, Senator McCain had a 22-year career as a naval aviator after graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy. His distinguished and courageous service earned numerous honors, including the Silver Star, Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, Purple Heart, and the Distinguished Flying Cross.

He spent a harrowing five-plus years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam after his plane was shot down over Hanoi in 1967. You may read more about Senator McCain in your Commencement program.

In keeping with the Arneson Pledge to active and definite participation in public affairs, the longstanding commitment of Ohio Wesleyan to Education for Leadership and Service, and the dedication of this graduating class to active engagement in civic, political, and social affairs, it is my great honor to introduce to you our Commencement speaker, a man whose life has been characterized by unwavering service to his country, courageous endurance of life's most challenging trials, and enduring commitment to increase the quality of human life and to protect the values of a free and democratic society—please join me in extending a warm Ohio Wesleyan welcome to Senator John McCain.