

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Arthur Sherwood Flemming Class of 1927

Dr. Arthur Flemming, zealous champion of civil rights and revered specialist on problems of aging, has contributed significantly to the improvement of the human condition.

Thanks to appointments by US presidents of both political persuasions, starting with Franklin Roosevelt, Dr. Flemming has occupied positions of influence in which he promoted progress toward the American ideals of equality and fairness.

A member of Ohio Wesleyan's Class of 1927, he holds an M.A. from the American University and thirty-seven honorary degrees, including one from his Alma Mater.

Not only has he performed with distinction and courage as public servant in many government positions, but also has served as president of three institutions of higher learning--Ohio Wesleyan, University of Oregon and Macalester College.

In 1953, he left his post as President of Ohio Wesleyan to join the Eisenhower administration, first as director of defense mobilization and member of the National Security Council, and then as one of the first secretaries of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

As head of the Civil Rights Commission during four administrations, he supported most vigorously affirmative action hiring and busing to achieve desegregation in tireless pursuit of racial justice.

In November 1981, as a result of philosophical differences with the administration, he had the dubious distinction of being the first Chairman in the 24-year history of the Commission to be dismissed. Within several hours he had accepted appointment to his current position as consultant to the National Education Association.

Throughout his lifetime, he has played a strong leadership role in his church and in 1966 became the second layman to be elected President of the National Council of Churches.

A consistent characteristic of Dr. Flemming's lifelong commitment to "doing good" has been involvement at the grassroots level at the same time as serving in office of authority.

His awards and honors, too numerous to list, include the Medal of Freedom in 1957, the Alexander Meiklejohn award for academic freedom in 1967 and, in 1980, the AARP's Andrus Award for outstanding contributions in behalf of older citizens.

Dr. Flemming continues to approach new assignments and challenges with vigor and openness to new ideas and concerns. His consistent and forceful efforts on behalf of the needs of society reflect honor on his Alma Mater.

June 19, 1982

