

MEDALLION OF MERIT

Presented to
Mr. James T. Williams, Jr.
February 18, 2016

Wake Forest was first introduced to James T. Williams, Jr. in the late 1950s, when he enrolled as a student on a football scholarship. Nearly six decades later, we recognize him as a 2016 Medallion of Merit recipient.

Mr. Williams, a first generation student and standout tackle with dreams of playing in the NFL, admittedly loved the game a lot and the books not enough. Sometime after his third semester, the athlete's two advisors called him in for a serious discuss about his future. That conversation ignited a new passion for the law and an insatiable curiosity about life.

After earning his law degree from Wake Forest, he began a long, storied career as a widely recognized top litigator representing corporate and professional organizations in high-stakes cases related to securities, antitrust issues, contracts and intellectual property. His belief that law is a moral enterprise and his reputation as a public servant has earned him notable honors from the North Carolina Bar Association, including being named a member of Business North Carolina's "Legal Elite" Hall of Fame. He has also been consistently listed in *The Best Lawyers in America*, *North Carolina Super Lawyers* and *Chambers USA: America's Leading Business Lawyers*.

In addition to his legal acumen, he has offered his time and resources to his community in Greensboro, North Carolina. Whether it is serving at his church, on the school board or in his community, Mr. Williams readily offers his help to anyone who asks.

When Wake Forest asked, Mr. Williams never forgot the people who cared about him enough to give him the opportunity to excel. For the past six decades, Mr. Williams has seen the University from every angle: as a student, parent, alumnus, die-hard fan and trustee. He was a member of the Alumni Council, College Board of Visitors and Law Board of Visitors. He has served on the boards of Wake Forest Baptist Medical Center, Wake Forest Health Sciences Board and the Wake Will Campaign Cabinet. While he was on the Board of Trustees, he served as chair and vice chair before being named a life trustee. He has faithfully supported Wake Forest as a Giving Society member and a member of the Legacy Society. In 2014, he was recognized with our Distinguished Alumni Award.

In gratitude for his decades of service to his profession, his clients, his colleagues and his community, for always answering when his alma mater called, for the wisdom and care he offers to his friends and family, and for living a life that demonstrates what it means to be a professional for the common good, Wake Forest confers its highest honor, the Medallion of Merit, upon Mr. James T. Williams, Jr. on this Eighteenth day of February, Two Thousand Sixteen.

MEDALLION OF MERIT

Presented to

Mrs. Jenny Robinson Puckett

February 18, 2016

Though Jenny Robinson Puckett retired from teaching at Wake Forest in 2013, she never really left. Her vast contributions in the classroom and across the country on behalf of Wake Forest set her apart to be honored as one of this year's Medallion of Merit recipients.

In the late 1960s, Mrs. Puckett enrolled as a student at Wake Forest. After holding a few teaching jobs, she returned to her alma mater and the scene of her youth to teach Spanish to undergraduate students. For several years, she offered her time to her profession and worked with the Educational Testing Service on the Advanced Placement Spanish Language Exam.

At Wake Forest, Mrs. Puckett was a beloved instructor in the classroom and an enthusiastic contributor to student life. Students selected her as the faculty advisor of Chi Omega sorority; at the request of the Student Union, she offered a Last Lecture; and she continues to serve as a member of the Advisory Committee for the Traditions Council. As a faithful Demon Deacon fan, she never misses an opportunity to cheer on students competing for the Old Gold and Black.

But Mrs. Puckett's love for Wake Forest is never more fully on display than when she tells us the stories of our shared past. One of her greatest research interests is the history of Wake Forest. She unearthed and gave us the story of our 10th president, Harold Tribble, who was charged with relocating our campus to Winston-Salem. She once taught a class about modern Wake Forest history where she invited the giants in our story to meet her students. She is currently working on a massive open online course sponsored by Z. Smith Reynolds Library about Wake Forest history. And her historian status has grown legendary as she travels from coast to coast, telling alumni, parents and friends at Wake Will campaign events about the people, places and circumstances that have made the community of Wake Forest what it is today.

In gratitude for her years of dedication and enthusiasm as a lecturer of Romantic Languages, her loving support of her students, and her gift of storytelling that unites generations of Wake Foresters in the spirit of *Pro Humanitate*, Wake Forest University confers its highest honor, the Medallion of Merit, upon Mrs. Jenny Robinson Puckett on this Eighteenth day of February, Two Thousand Sixteen.

Nathan O. Hatch,
President
Wake Forest University