

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by the University of Iowa to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to Stanley F. Redeker at Spring 2012 Commencement.

Executive Summary: The University of Iowa wishes to recognize Mr. Redeker for his exceptional contributions to state educational leadership, his ability to unify the Board of Regents during a difficult period, and his dedication to the values of the university during troubled times.

Details on Mr. Redeker's Accomplishments:

- ◇ Mr. Redeker was appointed to the Board of Regents in 1961 by Governor Norman Erbe and reappointed in 1967 by Governor Harold Hughes. He served as president of the Board from 1965 through the end of his second term in 1973. Despite political party differences with other Regents, Mr. Redeker was unanimously elected board president in an early demonstration of his unifying influence on the Board.
- ◇ During Mr. Redeker's service, the Board confronted extraordinary challenges arising from the institutional, social, and political changes of the times. The University of Iowa doubled its enrollment and faculty, experienced a dramatic increase in tuition, and installed two new presidents. Nationally, *in loco parentis* rules were challenged in court; universities were struggling to provide equal opportunity and accessibility for women, racial and ethnic minorities, disabled persons, and people of different sexual orientation. Protest against the war in Vietnam became a major issue on college campuses, including at the university.
- ◇ In the face of such challenges, Mr. Redeker steadfastly defended the university and its academic values. He understood the unique role of the university in society and advocated for the importance of that role, despite differing views from the general public and legislators. As an extraordinary representative of and spokesman for the university, he interacted constructively with the legislative and executive branches of government and articulated values and priorities unfamiliar to external constituencies.
- ◇ Mr. Redeker was a staunch defender of the university and insisted on being present whenever the General Assembly or one of its committees asked to meet with a university official. He took a strong position against the Board intervening in campus demonstrations, which helped keep many situations from escalating. He helped negotiate a controversial presidential search that ultimately resulted in the unanimous selection of Willard L. Boyd to succeed President Howard Bowen. Through his leadership and diplomacy, Mr. Redeker was an important force in keeping the Board united and effective in a period of almost continual crises.
- ◇ Since his retirement from the Board, Mr. Redeker has been an exemplary citizen leader in his community through the United Way, Chamber of Commerce, Boone Industrial Development Corporation, Lions Club, and Methodist Church. He continues to work daily at his Boone, Iowa retail store, Redeker Furniture, with his wife, Maxine.