

Recipients of Distinguished Service Medals

HENRY ARMFIELD FOSCUE '26 was the third of four generations of his family to attend the University at Chapel Hill in a single century. His historic connection is such that he took chemistry under the same man, Dr. Francis Preston Venable, who as an earlier University president, awarded a diploma to his grandfather. That took place in special rites many years after Henry Clay Foscue had left the campus to join the Confederate Army. Henry Armfield Foscue, whom we honor today, is also the son and father of physicians who studied at this university. He himself came to Chapel Hill from Guilford County with the intention of pursuing that career.

His decision to change his major field of study to business administration led him to an outstanding career in the furniture industry. He left Chapel Hill to join Globe Furniture Co. in High Point and rose to its presidency and board chairmanship, a post he held for 20 years until 1970. During that tenure he founded the Furniture Foundation and endowed a professorship in this field at N. C. State University. In an allied vein he was a benefactor of the home economics and design foundations at UNC-Greensboro. Both of those grateful institutions honored him for his long and continuing stewardship by awarding him honorary degrees.

In the furniture industry his accomplishments merited his selection as National Furniture Man of the Year in 1948. He continues to direct the largest and most influential furniture market in the world, the Southern Furniture Exposition Building in High Point.

Henry Foscue's lifelong interest in medicine has been best exemplified through his support of the School of Medicine at Chapel Hill, where he has been president of the Co-Founders Club and endowed a named professorship in cardiology. In 1973 the Medical School presented him its Distinguished Service Award.

Additionally Mr. Foscue was for over 25 years a member of the University Board of Trustees and first chairman of the restructured board for UNC-Chapel Hill. His personal credo is "Work should be the adult equivalent of play. If you don't like it, don't do it." His love for this University is returned in token here by this award from the General Alumni Association.