

James Edgar Wadsworth '34

In November 1944, from Admiralty Island in the South Pacific, Jim Wadsworth wrote a letter home to Spike Saunders, then secretary of the Alumni Association. Like many young men serving their country during wartime, Jim was homesick. He wrote:

It has been a long time since I left Chapel Hill (seven months — seems like years). There is no one who knows better than I what a fine setting we have for our top-ranked University. I miss its people, its flowers and shrubs, and its quiet and peaceful atmosphere.

After the war, Jim returned to his beloved Chapel Hill, but his loyalty and service to his country continued. In 1968, he was president of the U.S. Navy League's Triangle Council. By '70, he was elected a national director of the League and state president for North Carolina.

While in the South Pacific, Jim left his heart with his wife, Lallah, and their children, and with the University at Chapel Hill where he was a member of the class of '34. When he returned, he found the campus and the student body changed by the G.I. Bill.

The campus and the town were running over with former soldiers eligible to enroll if proof of a place to live could be produced. To manage the growing problem of settling students, Jim was appointed Director of Housing in 1946. Until Jim retired in 1972 Roy Armstrong had described the situation as, "Wadsworth tells people where they can go."

Jim Wadsworth shows a spirit of service in all that he chooses to do: high school science teacher, coach, scoutmaster, U.S. Naval officer, narrator for the Morehead Planetarium, proud member and organizer for his Class of '34.

To all of this service, and much more, James Edgar Wadsworth has always brought his enormous heart.