

John Austin Tate Jr. '38

Jack Tate gets described in various ways, always reflecting his unique combination of hard-headed business acumen and hard-driving humanitarianism.

“Jack Tate has a high degree of intellectual curiosity and toughness which is balanced by a true compassion for the human condition” says John B. Turner, Dean of the UNC School of Social Work.

“Sparkplug of Charlotte’s downtown Master Plan.” That’s how the *Charlotte Observer* described him in 1968, the year after he received one of the first distinguished service awards ever issued by the Downtown Charlotte Association, for his work as chairman of its master plan committee and as director of the Greater Charlotte Chamber of Commerce.

“Our town’s outstanding business leader.” That’s how the Dean of Students described him in 1980 when Davidson College awarded him (with his wife, Dottie) the school’s Algernon Sydney Sullivan Award as the townspeople best displaying “fine spiritual qualities practically applied to daily living.”

“Toughminded miracle worker.” That’s how the National Conference of Christians and Jews, Mecklenburg Chapter, described him in 1986 in awarding him (again, with his wife, Dottie) the Silver Medallion for his promotion of the ideals that have “exemplified respect for individual rights and human dignity in nourishing the richness of American pluralism.”

Jack Tate came to UNC in 1934 from the McCallie School and studied economics, a field in which he was to become very, very good. At Carolina he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa. After Carolina he received an MBA in banking from the Harvard Business School.

A distinguished banking career with Wachovia and North Carolina National Bank culminated in his 1968 election as president of the Piedmont Bank and Trust Company in Davidson. In parallel with his business career, and in conjunction with his wife, the former Dorothy Nicholson, Jack Tate developed a profound dedication to the welfare of the community, especially to its children and youth. Jack has shared these concerns, as president of the board of Child Care Resources, Inc., for example, but has concentrated his efforts on those a little older – as a member

of the boards of trustees or visitors at Davidson College, Johnson C. Smith University, and Union Theological Seminary, and, for 14 years, the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. For the final year of that stint, he was chairman of the UNC board.

In 1987 Jack led a drive that raised more than \$250,000 to endow a chair at Carolina’s School of Social Work in honor of a former Mecklenburg welfare director. And in 1988, his humanitarianism reached the most concrete expression possible with his gift to endow a second chair, this one specifically to study issues relating to the well-being of children, named in honor of his father.

For his lifetime of excellence in commerce, strength of social conscience, and generosity of spirit, Jack received the William R. Davie Award from Carolina last year.

When Jack Tate retired as chairman of the UNC Board of Trustees, he said, “It has been a joy to come to this campus at least once a month – to see and feel the beauty of the campus and to share vicariously the energy, the enthusiasm, and the idealistic hopes of the students.”

Jack Tate is an alumnus who inspires energy, enthusiasm, and idealistic hopes. What he sees in the faces of our students here is his reward.