

Kenneth Claiborne Royall, Jr. '40

Kenneth Royall has been a friend to this University at Chapel Hill throughout his life of community and state government service.

Young Kenneth learned about loyalty and service from his father, Kenneth Royall, Sr., class of 1914, who served as the last Secretary of War under President Truman and as the Secretary of the Army. A devoted friend to Chapel Hill, he served the General Alumni Association as president in 1959.

Senator Royall and his wife, Julia Zollicoffer Royall, live in Durham. Winner of Durham's coveted Civic Honor Award, his energetic community involvement includes serving as chairman of the Durham County School Board, on the Board of Trustees of the School of Science and Math, and on Duke Hospital's Advisory Board.

Senator Royall is serving his seventh term in the North Carolina Senate. Elected "most influential" by his Senate colleagues, he is Majority Leader and chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, which has life or death power over appropriations and tax bills. He is also chairman of the state's Advisory Budget Commission.

As a leader in the legislature, Senator Royall has put to use, for the benefit of this University and our state, his God-given ability to see a need and then to respond with effective budgetary action. His photographic memory for numbers, sound intellect, and unquestioned integrity have made him a leader among his colleagues. Known as a quiet insider, Senator Royall is content to be a "work horse" to get the job done. Governors seek his advice. Lobbyists seek his ear. Legislators seek his blessings.

About his long-term friend, President William Friday recently said:

Kenneth Royall has been a great and loyal friend of the University at Chapel Hill all the years I have known him. His devotion to this place is complete; his personal efforts to enrich and enhance the University are truly remarkable. Kenneth Royall personifies the self-giving public spirited citizen, and we are blessed in having him among us.