

LOUISE ELLINGTON TAYLOR married her childhood sweetheart, Nelson Ferebee Taylor, in their hometown of Oxford 35 years ago on a date that foretold their destiny—University Day, Oct. 12, 1946.

They went to Harvard, where he studied law, having already earned his bachelor's degree from The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. From Harvard, the young couple went to Oxford University in England, where Ferebee was a Rhodes Scholar.

Then, for 20 years, they lived in New York where he was legal counsel for a major industrial firm, but his ties to the University were never forgotten, and in 1970 they returned to Chapel Hill when he was appointed Vice President for Administration of the University system.

"There was no adjustment," Louise Taylor said. "It was just coming home." Two years later, her husband was named Chancellor of his Alma Mater and Oct. 12 became a day for them to celebrate not only their wedding anniversary, but the University's birthday as well.

An expert organizer of her own time, Louise Taylor also has given of herself to the larger University community, particularly to the University Woman's Club and the N.C. Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She admits to enjoying the social aspects of University life, but her contributions have added immeasurably to the enjoyment of others, too. This even includes Carolina athletics, for she is an avid football and basketball fan and an incurably enthusiastic supporter of the Tar Heel teams. But rearing her children and helping her husband has been her main hobby and vocation. "I've always felt this was particularly important," she explained. "We try to stay together as a close-knit group."

From 1972 to 1980 Louise Taylor participated with style, grace and warmth, not only in the ceremonial aspects of official duties, but in continuing her family role as mother of three attractive daughters who were, during the time, all students at the University here. One of them, noting her mother's outstanding qualities, declared: "Being the Chancellor's wife has not changed her. She is still down to earth and does everything she can for everybody else."

Her husband once expressed the hope that a magazine article about her would capture in words what a warm, generous, thoughtful and lovely lady she is. As official hostess for the University during the eight-year administration of Ferebee Taylor, she was, again in his words, "an important dimension of the chancellorship."

For this important contribution to the University, and for her abiding love for its faculty, staff, students and alumni, the General Alumni Association is proud to present Louise Taylor with its Distinguished Service Medal.