

THOMAS JACKSON WHITE, JR. '27 – Entering the University at Chapel Hill from Concord, following two years at N.C. State, Tom White studied law for three years, then began his lifetime professional practice – a career devoted in rich measure to the welfare of the state and the university that he loves. While never a public employee, he has served the cause of North Carolina government and its state University as both an elected and appointive public servant in a variety of ways seldom equaled.

This began with his membership on the Wildlife Resources Commission in 1948 and his election to the state House of Representatives in 1953. During the succeeding two decades he became one of the most influential members of both the House and the Senate, serving on the appropriations and finance committees. For 12 years, 10 of them as chairman, he was a member of the Advisory Budget Commission – a position that put him in close touch with the operations of his Alma Mater. He developed a particular interest in the newly expanding School of Medicine and teaching hospital at Chapel Hill and was an effective advocate of the importance to the state of these new facilities. In 1972 he was honored by the School of Medicine with its Distinguished Service Award

In additional service to the state he has been chairman of the legislative building and art museum building commissions, shepherding those significant structures through their successful construction.

Of direct concern to this University, he served for many years on the board of trustees and its executive committee, and subsequently on the University system's Board of Governors. An additional legacy he has given alma mater is his namesake and son, a fellow attorney in Kinston, who received both his undergraduate and law degrees here.

The Alumni Association honors itself in awarding its Distinguished Service Medal to Tom White.