

# Anthony Eden Rand '61

---

High accolades come easily and abundantly to someone who has worked with as much forethought and diligence for the state of North Carolina and for its flagship University as has Tony Rand. Modesty and decorum dictate that we share only two.

From his former business partner, Bill Jordan '64: "He has an insatiable appetite for messin' in politics. I'd like the boy to do a little work, but it's tough to get him away from Raleigh."

From The Honorable Marc Basnight: "He is a truly wonderful human being who happened to go to Chapel Hill . . . because he couldn't get in Duke. There is not a more deserving, more credible, or more willing recipient of this award."

Tony Rand knows what too few "politically engaged" people know: That there is lightness, and laughter, and innocent mischief in the most serious business. And the person who finds and uses them often has the most assets in the bank for the times when important decisions ride on tense negotiation.

There is perhaps nothing the state legislature deals with that is so valuable to this state and yet so misunderstood as its University. We are represented there by a man who is as much a professor and a preacher as he is a lawmaker. In the last few years he has taught with great effectiveness, and he has converted a lot of nonbelievers.

In the great tradition of North Carolina politics, Tony got his inspiration early, at home. His father was mayor of Garner. His Aunt Betty was the state's first female sheriff's deputy, and his Aunt Josephine was assistant state auditor. So it's no wonder he knows a thing or two about the law, and a thing or two about the state's money. Thanks to his mother he is, in fact, named after the British foreign secretary, Anthony Eden.

So he took the beginnings of political leadership with him to Carolina, where the late Albert Coates '18 had the chance to see into the future one day. Tony was deeply engrossed in a . . . nap in his criminal law class, and Professor Coates roused him and said, "Brother Rand, have you heard the song by the Ink Spots . . . 'Come to me sweetheart, now is the time; you tell me your dreams, and I'll tell you mine?'"

As the story goes, Tony didn't miss a beat. He said, "I have great dreams for myself, and for this University."

Not long into his lawyering, his friend Charlie Rose '61 coaxed him to Fayetteville, and in 1981 Tony began a legislative career that is the realization of those dreams. As he took his place among those who have, as Tony says, "spent 200 years nurturing something really unique," he was up against a fight. There was a serious effort to reduce appropriations to the UNC Board of Governors, which could have devastated research at Carolina and N.C. State. Every new quest for tuition and faculty salary increases, building projects and flexibility in university funding met a tidal wave of opposition.

It showed Tony how fragile such a good thing can be. And it inspired him to lead a resurgence in support for the University.

"These things cannot happen without courage," Marc Basnight says. "It's the issues that divide people, but which help the University, that bring him to the forefront. When people said professors aren't working hard enough — that they should punch a clock or something — Tony explained what academic freedom is. These are the things nobody ever hears about."

If you're on the other end of the debate, you always know you're dealing with a gentleman, and you *never* know what words he might use to make a point — or to cool the air.

Not many years ago, Tony was explaining his bill to allow re-bottling of imported liquor in the state, when a senator asked why it applied only to the coastal counties. He asked, "Why can't we bottle liquor in Caswell County?" Tony answered him, "Senator, it is my understanding you probably do."

He once was asked, when does the Senate rules committee meet? He replied, "When I go to the bathroom." Do not be fooled. Nothing gets past him.

And nothing in Raleigh keeps him from his other passion, the General Alumni Association, where we have come to look forward to his dry delivery as much as the jokes themselves. As chair of the membership committee and later as chair of the board, Tony had a large hand in a substantial increase in membership. He understands that a few can give the University thousands of dollars; but many more can join Carolina voices through the GAA. A busier person, with more responsibility on his shoulders, who handles it all as effectively and is as well respected, would be hard to find. A friend any better to the causes of alumni would be even harder.

Tony Rand has taken it as his personal responsibility to bring a better understanding of the University and its importance in North Carolina to colleagues who cannot say, as Tony can . . . "Always, in the fall of the year, wherever I am, there will be a number of times when I just go back to Chapel Hill in my mind."