



CONCORD UNIVERSITY

DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, HONORIS CAUSA

Betty J. Wilkes, your life is an extraordinary example of boundless dedication to education, philanthropy, and community service. Born into a family known for sharing with and caring for their neighbors, you admirably continue that legacy with your own unwavering contributions to those around you.

After earning your undergraduate degree from Concord in 1941 and later a master's degree from West Virginia University, you devoted your professional life to education. With an illustrious teaching career spanning more than 40 years, you have positively molded countless students in Raleigh County, West Virginia, and your influence continues through the generations.

As a tireless volunteer with noble causes and projects and a generous supporter of the same, your unique touch and contributions reach into every corner where there is a need. Your neighbors and fellow southern West Virginians have benefitted immensely because of your spirit of giving.

Your generosity extends to Concord, your alma mater, with a long history of support for alumni, students and all Concordians. The Wilkes Family Chapel in University Point, your gift to the University, is named in honor of the extraordinary support you and your sister, the late Joan Wilkes, provided to Concord and to the field of education. This legacy of giving is further reflected in the collection of carnival glass that belonged to your late sister, Grace Wilkes, and that is displayed in the Wilkes Museum in University Point. A dignified Concord landmark, the Wilkes Family Chapel enriches campus and community life and will continue to enhance the University and surrounding area in the days ahead.

You have brought the highest honor and distinction to Concord and to West Virginia. Countless awards and honors attest to your distinguished life including the YMCA of Southern West Virginia's Spirit of Beckley Community Service Award and the Concord University Alumni Association's Golden Alumnus Award. Both awards you shared with your beloved sister, Joan.

For your outstanding professional accomplishments and your remarkable community service and philanthropic heart, Concord University confers upon you, Betty J. Wilkes, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

CONFERRED ON
DECEMBER 13, 2014

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