

**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal  
and  
Citation of Merit  
1994 Recipient**



**Peter Rupert Fink '51  
1933-1993**

A business and community leader of rare distinction and dedication, Peter R. Fink lived a life characterized by a boundless energy, an unwavering commitment to excellence, and the unparalleled joy that belongs to those who give of themselves freely. He would say that it was at Taft that he learned these values which served him so well in his professional life. Though he initially resisted the rules of the school, he persevered and succeeded, often with the help of his mentor, Ed Douglas, whom he later honored through the creation of the Edwin C. Douglas endowed chair. Peter's strengths as a man are foreshadowed in his work at Taft as a boy: his awards in current events presage his decades of dedication to the Republican Party; his enjoyment of music found later expression as a trustee of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra hall; and his debating skills surely contributed to his success as chief executive officer of several major corporations. Whatever debt of gratitude Peter believed he owed Taft was many times repaid in the nearly twenty years of matchless service that he gave the school as a trustee par excellence. His decade of leadership in the 1980s as chairman of the board of trustees saw unprecedented growth for the school, in large part because of Peter's prescient and articulate vision for the school. On his watch, the school's endowment increased nine-fold, and we embarked on a renewal and expansion of the campus, the likes of which had not been seen since the days of Horace Taft. And it is the memory of that great, gentle man that is evoked as the life of this other great gentleman is considered: Peter Fink surely lived the life of service imagined by Horace Taft for his graduates when he chose as the school's motto, *Non Ut Sibi Ministretur Sed Ut Ministret.*