

**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal
and Citation of Merit
2011 Recipient**



Lowell Thomas, Jr. '42

Arriving at Taft as a middler, you quickly established your presence as an athlete, singer, debater, and school leader respected by all. You advanced your education at Dartmouth College, taking time off to join the Army Air Corps. Upon graduation, you were assigned duty as an instructor pilot teaching cadets how to fly B-25 bombers during World War II. Your passion for flying and adventure set the course of your life. You became a photographer and lecturer reporting on your travels around the globe. Later, at your father's invitation, you ventured to Tibet, establishing a strong bond with a struggling country. This expedition was the basis for the book *Out of This World, Tibet*, which helped shape our country's view of that region of the world. You received the Light of Truth Award in 2005 and the Dalai Lama proclaimed you the genuine grandfather of the Tibetan movement in the United States. Expanding your communication skills to film, you collaborated with your father to produce some of the first Cinerama productions. You followed a little-traveled route to Alaska and became a bush pilot, forming your own air taxi company. Later you entered the political world and served as a state senator and became lieutenant governor of Alaska. As an environmental activist you led efforts to establish a state park and were recognized for your work to preserve the wildlife, ecosystems, and communities for present and future generations. Alaska's inhabitants look to you for visionary leadership in the conservation of their land and will be forever grateful for your role in the state's saga. You and your beloved wife, Tay, have written of travels together and your life in Alaska. You have shared your love for the rugged expanse of Alaska's terrain and the awe of its arctic treasures so that others can learn of the wonders of our 49th state and understand the importance of its role in our country's future. We admire the wonderful ways in which you have conveyed a life of adventure and travel—making the marvels of the world accessible to all. Your constant efforts to preserve the environment, your passionate dedication to wildlife, and your loyal service to the state of Alaska continue to demonstrate a life of commitment to others and to nature. It is with enormous pride and gratitude that we acknowledge your accomplishments and confer upon you Taft School's highest honor, the Citation of Merit.