

**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal
and
Citation of Merit
1971 Recipient**



**James Isbell Armstrong '37
1919-2013**

Mystery and doubt may becloud the life of your great, eponymous hero, the poet Homer, but there is no confusion about your life. Until you became president of Middlebury College in 1963, you were almost exclusively Princeton based, from birth through doctorate, from instructor in classics to associate dean of the graduate school. Relatively short were the periods of study at Taft, teaching at Indiana and service in the army. Your Taft classmates quickly saw and responded to qualities that have constantly marked your life: leadership as a monitor, intellectual ability in graduating cum laude, vigor as a pitcher for the baseball team and gaiety in living. You were the first to join every dance committee and the last to leave the dance. At Middlebury you have earned the full respect and admiration of your community. They like your principle that administrators should teach. They appreciate your insistence that faculty must have both resources and freedom. They applaud your ability in raising funds and your tact in diverting highways from the campus. Scientia et virtus—this is Middlebury's motto. Knowledge is indeed your strength but compassion and love are your greatest virtues. Your total life has fulfilled Taft's creed of service to others, but today your school recognizes above all your dynamic spirit and confers on you this Citation of Merit.