

**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal
and
Citation of Merit
1995 Recipient**



**William Rankin Duryee '23
1905-2000**

Undaunted pioneer in the fight against cancer, you have stood in the front ranks of those committed to helping others in the highest tradition of your school's motto: *Non Ut Sibi Ministretur Sed Ut Ministret*. Your exemplary record at Taft saw you go on to earn a doctorate at Yale in biology and cell physiology. After assisting two Nobel laureates in Europe, you joined the faculty of the George Washington University School of Medicine in experimental pathology and so set forth on a course of research that would be distinguished by a series of landmark accomplishments: you performed the first micro dissection of the human egg; you discovered gene loops and circular DNA molecules; you made the first films of living genes; you collaborated with Vannevar Bush, builder of the first analog computer, to design the Bush-Duryee-Hastings electric micromanipulator, making possible direct study of the smallest chromosomes. Beyond the laboratory, you have served your country with remarkable commitment, ranging from your work in the Surgeon General's office to your tenure as senior fellow of the National Cancer Institute and the National Institutes of Health. Humanitarian and healer, you have brought great honor to your alma mater by virtue of the example you set for her graduates. Today, they honor you with their highest award, the Alumni Citation of Merit.