

**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal
and
Citation of Merit
1979 Recipient**



**Charles Cecil Finucane '24
1905-1983**

Since your arrival at Taft in 1920 you have wholeheartedly participated in the life of the school—as a student, concerned alumnus, class agent, and trustee. After graduation from Yale, you rejected the self-indulgent spirit of the age and chose instead “the road less travelled.” Quickly successful in politics, you became minority leader of the Washington state legislature, and neighboring Idaho recognized your ability as a rancher by naming you “Grassman of the Year.” A decade before World War II, you joined the Naval Reserve and at the outbreak of war served with distinction in naval intelligence. In the postwar period your keen interest in politics combined with your informed knowledge of the armed forces enabled you to serve in the Eisenhower administration in increasingly important positions which culminated in your appointment as assistant secretary of defense—years of active duty recognized by a grateful government in two awards for distinguished service. Throughout the years you maintained your roots in your western homeland, quietly but effectively serving in many local “good works,” continuing a lifelong pattern of commitment to your community, your country, and your school. Today, not to be outdone by cattlemen and the federal government, Taft in turn recognizes you as one who has lived the motto of the school, and takes pride in awarding you the Alumni Citation of Merit.