

**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal
and
Citation of Merit
2003 Recipient**



Alfred Gilman '58

Alfred Gilman, humanitarian and renowned leader in the scientific community, your life's singular quest to understand and unravel the secrets of nature for the benefit of mankind was forged at Taft where, as a Cum Laude Society inductee and recipient of the Rensselaer Alumni Medal for Excellence in mathematics and science, you "learned how to learn." Earning your bachelor's degree in biochemistry from Yale University and doctorates of medicine and pharmacology from Case Western Reserve University, you applied your knowledge in pursuit of unlocking the mysteries of genetics and biochemistry as assistant professor of pharmacology at the University of Virginia. But it was during your tenure as chair of the department of pharmacology at the University of Texas Southwestern that the culmination of your prodigious contribution to science was noted. Hailed for your landmark discovery of the g-protein component of basic cellular function and communication, you were recognized as a 1994 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine. Uncompromising and impassioned in your commitment to excellence, innovative and principled in your research, humble and unselfish in your eagerness to share your success, your seminal work has been transformational, engendering hope, inspiration, and enrichment across the globe. Alfred Gilman, you have lived a life of purpose and achievement always dedicated to upholding and preserving your alma mater's most cherished ideal: *Non Ut Sibi Ministretur Sed Ut Ministret*. You have gracefully held aloft the torch lighted by our founder, and it is with the greatest pride, respect, and admiration that we bestow upon you Taft's highest honor, the Alumni Citation of Merit.