

**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal  
and Citation of Merit  
2014 Recipient**



**William I. Miller '74**

Forty-three years ago this past fall you arrived at Taft a shy, slightly naïve young boy from Columbus, Indiana. In your years at the school, you matured into a leading scholar, outstanding actor and fearless explorer of the Taft campus, a role which well prepared you for the impact you would later have on the evolution of the school's architecture. A Yale B.A. and Stanford M.B.A. with academic honors followed, leading to a distinguished career as a businessman at Warburg Pincus, Irwin Management Corporation and the Irwin Financial Corporation, before returning east to become president of the Wallace Foundation, dedicated to improving public education through excellence in school leadership. This step followed logically from your service to nonprofit boards such as the John T. and Catherine D. MacArthur Foundation, Yale University, Public Radio International, Indiana's Community Education Coalition, the National Building Museum and the Taft School, where you played the essential role as the school's master planner for nearly thirty years. At the tender age of twenty-five, you had the temerity to challenge the Taft trustees to "choose enduring values and beauty over easy or inexpensive solutions, to build for one hundred years and understand that we design buildings and then they shape us for generations to come." And so Taft has, assuring that we have one of the most inspirational campuses of any school in America today. Your life of service to education throughout the land and to your own school exemplifies the enduring power of Horace Taft's ideal: *Non ut sibi Ministretur sed ut ministret.* With admiration and deep gratitude, we confer upon you Taft's highest honor, the Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal.