

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

2010 Recipient



**John Orb '37
1919-2010**

As a student, father, grandfather, volunteer, and trustee you have served the Taft School community spanning eight decades. In each of these roles you have helped to shape and improve the school. While at Taft, you embraced leadership by serving on your class committee every year and on the board of the Papyrus as well as competing on the football and cross-country teams. Such determination and your academic success made certain your admission to Yale University. Later, during World War II, your commitment to service earned you the wings of lieutenant colonel in the United States Air Force. Your heroism as a combat pilot merited the Distinguished Flying Cross medal for courage and valor. After the war, you excelled as an investment banker at Merrill Lynch, becoming vice president. In 1975, as head of Smith Barney, you successfully orchestrated its merger with Harris, Upham and Company. The newly organized firm experienced remarkable growth and success through the 1980s. Your visionary stewardship, balancing fiscal strength and employee opportunities, brought you the respect and trust of colleagues. Over the years, you have generously supported many organizations providing services to young adults. You have made a Taft School education possible for many deserving students through the scholarship you created. From 1984 through 1991, you served on the Taft Board of Trustees and were a member of the Investment and financial committees, which guided the board in making critical decisions and propelled Taft School into a new era of prosperity. You helped Taft broaden its base and assured its promise for future generations. Improving the campus and increasing enrollment, you helped Taft reinforce its sense of community, playing a pivotal role in its efforts to educate young people. Compassionate and determined in your approach, creative and realistic in your delivery, and uncompromising in your high standards, you embody all that is cherished in our school motto: *Non Ut Sibi Ministretur Sed Ut Ministret*. It is with a great sense of pride that we honor you today with the School's highest award, the Citation of Merit.