Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal
and
Citation of Merit
1994 Recipient

Charles Edward Yonkers ’58

While still at Yale, you heard your president’s call to national service; ten years after his assassination, you answered that call by moving your family to Benin, West Africa, where you directed all of the Peace Corps’ operations in that country for four years. That brave commitment to serving your fellow man in a country far from home was the fulfillment of the great leadership recognized by your peers at Taft, where you were head monitor of the school and editor-in-chief of the Papyrus. Your love of travel was also seen then, as you spent the year after graduating from Taft as an English-speaking union fellow in England. Since that time, the same wanderlust has taken you to Nepal, India, and Russia with your wife and two children, both of whom also graduated from Taft. But you are always glad to return to Washington at the end of your travels, and you have given freely of yourself in your home community as well. As executive partner of McKenna and Cuneo in Washington D.C., you represented indigent persons in criminal proceedings from arraignment to appeal through the United States Court of Appeals. You have also extended your time and talents to your alma mater, as trustee, class agent, and reunion chairman. The energy and commitment that you bring to all that you do, whether it be in your work as an attorney, your globetrotting, or your running in marathons, typifies the love of life that you share with all those around you. Your school applauds your willingness to serve your community both locally and globally; for your selfless work in seeking justice at home and in bringing the advances of the west to developing countries abroad, your alma mater proudly confers upon you its highest honor, the Alumni Citation of Merit.