

Mortar Board

National College Senior Honor Society

Scholars... Chosen for Leadership... United to Serve



MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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MORTAR BOARD PRESENTS DISTINGUISHED LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP AWARD TO UNIVERSITY LEADER WILLIAM R. BUTLER

COLUMBUS, Ohio – Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society recently presented the Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award to Dr. William R. Butler, vice-president emeritus and professor of education at the University of Miami.

The Mortar Board Distinguished Lifetime Membership Award is presented each year to exceptional Mortar Board alumni who have exemplified a lifelong devotion to Mortar Board's ideals of scholarship, leadership and service. Honorees have retained connections with Mortar Board and have demonstrated outstanding community or campus service with national or international impact.

An educator and university leader for more than 50 years, Butler made many contributions to the University of Miami, including the establishment of the Hecht and Stanford Residential colleges, starting a master's program in higher education and opening the Wellness Center. He was also the driving force to memorialize the university's long-time dean of women, Dr. May A. Brunson, a key figure in bringing Mortar Board to campus in 1965. Butler partnered with the city of Coral Gables to name a street in Brunson's honor in 1990, and in that same year Butler was initiated as an honorary member of the Nu Kappa Tau chapter of Mortar Board. Butler is most widely known as the founder of the Center for Volunteer Services and Leadership Development at Miami, which supports the activities and programs of student volunteers at the university. Upon his retirement in 1997, the center was re-named in his honor, a fitting tribute to Butler's legacy of scholarship, leadership and service.

Butler joined the U.S. Navy at age 17 and served in the Southwest Pacific Theater during World War II. After the war, Butler took advantage of the G.I. Bill to obtain his baccalaureate and master's degrees in psychology at Ohio University. He earned his doctorate in counseling psychology at the University of Kansas in 1956 while serving as assistant dean of men and foreign student advisor. He became dean of men in 1957 at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, and then two years later he returned to Ohio University as dean of students. In 1965, he began his long and distinguished career as vice president for student affairs at the University of Miami. Butler's insight and zest for serving students benefitted the university for three decades as he led the University of Miami through the most tumultuous times in the institution's history from civil rights unrest to Vietnam demonstrations and the role of women in higher education.

Since his retirement, Butler has written two books about the development of student diversity initiatives, international scholars programs and the globalization of the university. He and his wife, Virginia, live in Palmetto Bay, Fla., and have four children and four grandchildren.

Mortar Board is the premier national honor society recognizing college seniors for outstanding achievement in scholarship, leadership and service. Since its founding in 1918, more than a quarter of a million members have held the honor of being initiated at 230 chartered chapters across the nation. Mortar Board provides its members with opportunities for continued leadership development, promotes service to colleges and universities and encourages lifelong contributions to the global community. Some notable Mortar Board members include professional football player and philanthropist Drew Brees, former United States Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and award-winning actor Marion Ross. Learn more about Mortar Board at www.mortarboard.org.

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For more information, please contact Jenni Szolwinski at jszolwinski@mortarboard.org or 513-907-7485.