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Office of the President
February 22, 2019

Members, Board of Trustees:

HONORARY DEGREE RECIPIENTS

Recommendation: that the Board of Trustees approve awarding an Honorary Doctor of Laws to Stephen B. Bright, an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Yvonne Giles, an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Jim Host, an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters to Howard L. Lewis, and an Honorary Doctor of Engineering to Reese S. Terry, Jr., as approved and recommended by the University Faculty.

Background: Pursuant to the Conditions of Merit for Honorary Degrees, the University Joint Committee on Honorary Degrees recommended to the elected Faculty Senators that the specified honorary degrees be awarded to Stephen B. Bright, Yvonne Giles, Jim Host, Howard L. Lewis, and Reese S. Terry, Jr. The elected Faculty Senators have approved the recommendation.

Biographical sketches of the recipients are attached.

Action taken: Approved Disapproved Other _____

Stephen B. Bright
Honorary Doctor of Laws

Stephen Bright, a Kentuckian from Boyle County, has distinguished himself as a successful attorney, educator, and public servant. As a student at the University of Kentucky, Bright majored in Political Science and served as the president of the Student Government Association. Upon graduation in 1971, Bright enrolled in the University of Kentucky College of Law and earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1974.

Bright is recognized for his work on death penalty, and race and class discrimination cases within the United States justice system. His work has included representing defendants facing possible death sentences, policy work to change the laws regarding imprisonment and the death penalty, as well as taking on various teaching positions at universities across the nation. Bright was instrumental in the American Bar Association's Death Penalty Representation Project.

Over the course of his career, Bright has served as the Executive Director of the District of Columbia Law Students in Court program, Director and President of the Southern Center for Human Rights, and currently holds teaching positions at Yale Law School and Georgetown University Law Center.

In 1991, Bright was given the Roger Baldwin Medal of Liberty from the American Civil Liberties Union, honoring his contributions to civil liberties in the United States. In 1998 Bright was awarded the American Bar Association's Thurgood Marshall Award for his commitment to civil rights. In addition to these honors, Bright has authored several articles published in numerous law journals around the country and has argued several cases in state and federal court, four of which were argued at the Supreme Court of the United States.

Bright has been awarded honorary degrees from the University of Louisville, Berea College, Georgetown University, and Emory University, among others.

Stephen B Bright is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Laws from the University of Kentucky.

Yvonne Giles
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Lexington historian Yvonne Giles has worked single-handedly to rediscover the history and accomplishments of African-Americans in Lexington, Kentucky. Giles attended Henry Clay High School at its time of racial integration and upon graduation enrolled at the University of Kentucky. Giles received her B.S. in Home Economics in 1967 and her M.S. in Food Science and Nutrition in 1977.

Giles began her career as a dietician at Good Samaritan Hospital and later became a United States Department of Agriculture Agent in Lexington, Frankfort, and LaGrange, Kentucky. Through this work, Giles became the first African-American Extension Agent in Oldham County. Soon thereafter, she was elected as the first African-American woman on the LaGrange City Council and chaired the Main Street Historic District Commission. In 1986 she returned to Lexington and worked in the gift industry serving stores throughout Kentucky.

After retiring in 1999, Giles took up an interest in genealogy research where she has dedicated the past 20 years uncovering and documenting those buried and/or forgotten in Lexington, specifically at Lexington's African Cemetery No. 2. Through self-taught historical research, Giles has discovered that 5,000 persons are buried there, of which 1,200 she has identified, although only 600 are recognized with headstones.

Because of her expertise, Giles has been able to describe the accomplishments of Lexington's African-American community dating back to the time when Kentucky's first settlers arrived. Her work has helped regain African-American history and shed light on the many ways these stories were disregarded.

Giles has achieved several accomplishments over the years including: founding a museum named after Lexington sculptor Isaac Scott Hathaway; publishing a book based on African Cemetery No. 2; and unveiling the African-American Heritage Trail in downtown Lexington. Her contributions to African-American history in Lexington has helped reshape the city and illuminates the extraordinary value of her work.

Yvonne Giles is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Kentucky.

Jim Host
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Jim Host began attending the University of Kentucky in 1955. As a student-athlete, Host was the first baseball player to receive a full athletic scholarship. Host also began his radio career doing play-by-play with the student radio station and WVLK radio station. In 1959 Host earned a degree in radio arts and pursued a professional baseball career with the Chicago White Sox.

During the 1960's Host had various careers, which included creating one of the five University of Kentucky Sports Networks known as Kentucky Central UK Sports Network and owning his own Real Estate Company and Insurance Agency, all while continuing to be a radio commentator for the University of Kentucky and local high schools.

In 1967 Host became the youngest cabinet officer for Governor Louie Nunn and in 1969 served as Chair of the Kentucky Horse Park Commission, leading to the creation of the Kentucky Horse Park. Host went on to create Jim Host and Associates, which later became Host Communications. Host Communications acquired exclusive radio rights to University of Kentucky Sports, which led to NCAA Radio Network rights.

Host has served as President of the Lexington Rotary Club, Chair of the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce, President of the Bluegrass Council of Boy Scouts, was on the Board of Directors for the National Park Advisory, Kentucky Sports Authority, National Basketball Hall of Fame, and the Louisville Arena Authority, which built KFC Yum Center. He retired as CEO from Host Communications to become Secretary of the Commerce Cabinet under then-Governor Ernie Fletcher. In 2006, Host was named Chair of the World Equestrian Games.

Highlighting all his accomplishments, Host received the Kentuckian of the Year Award from the Chandler Foundation, the Champion of Diversity Award from the Louisville Urban League, the Kentucky Broadcasters Distinguished Kentuckian Award, and the Rural Kentuckian of the Year Award by the Rural Electric Co-ops.

Host is a part of the UK Hall of Distinguished Alumni, a UK College of Communication Outstanding Alumnus, an Outstanding Business Leader Award winner from the UK Gatton School of Business, and a member of the UK Athletics Hall of Fame.

Jim Host is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Kentucky.

Howard Lewis
Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters

Born into poverty and the 10th child of a sharecropper family, Lewis exemplifies the American success story. Growing up, Lewis often relocated staying with extended family due to stress and physical abuse he endured from age four to 16. At the age of 10, Lewis' father was killed in an accident leaving he and his mother to relocate to an inner-city neighborhood in Covington, Kentucky. Throughout middle school and high school Lewis worked in the school lunchroom earning free lunch and excelled as a student. Although never intending to attend college, due to focusing on working and supporting himself and his mother, Lewis received encouragement from a University of Kentucky recruiter to enroll at the University of Kentucky community college in Covington. After completing two years of community college work, he transferred to the University of Kentucky main campus in Lexington. Lewis graduated in 1970 with a Bachelor of Business Administration and earned an M.B.A from Xavier University in Cincinnati.

Upon graduation, Lewis was drafted into the U.S. Army serving in the Army Reserve. This allowed him to begin his professional career in financial services with Central Trust Co. Lewis then joined Picker International Corporation, where he directed and managed the Cincinnati district. By 1975 Lewis was a regional manager at Progressive Insurance Company for the Northeast and Southwest, and headed the company's Canadian initiative.

In 1989 Lewis decided to start his own insurance company, carefully choosing the name "Family Heritage Life Insurance Company of America." Here Lewis wanted to focus on life insurance and supplemental health insurance policies for cancer, heart disease, stroke, and accident victims to provide benefits beyond traditional health insurance. By 2012 the company had not only won dozens of industry awards but also served over 250,000 American families with revenues surpassing \$200 million. This same year, Torchmark Corporation became the principal owner of Family Heritage, where Lewis now serves as chairman emeritus of the company.

Lewis has spent his life providing help to children and young people around him because he understands the transformative impact a helping hand can make in a young person's life. From looking at his own experience with the Boy Scouts, Lewis decided to contribute to his community in several different ways. Lewis has served as a board member or special advisor to multiple non-profit organizations including: Big Brothers of Greater Cincinnati; Wigs for Kids; Harvest for Hunger; Boy Scouts of America; St. Jude's Research Hospital; Cleveland Clinic; and Heart to Heart Christian Academy.

An avid supporter of the University of Kentucky, Lewis served as the volunteer chairperson of the successful University of Kentucky Gatton College of Business & Economics philanthropic campaign launched in 2013. This campaign led to a \$65 million private charitable fund toward the significant renovation and expansion of the Gatton College building.

Howard Lewis is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters from the University of Kentucky.

Reese S. Terry, Jr.
Honorary Doctor of Engineering

A native of Mount Sterling, Kentucky, Reese Terry, Jr. began his undergraduate studies in the 1960's at the University of Kentucky in civil engineering. In junior year, he changed his major to electrical engineering and earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees.

In 1976, Terry joined Intermedics, Inc. and served as Vice President of Engineering, Vice President of Corporate Technical Resources, and Vice President of Quality. During this time, Terry pursued his interest in pacemakers and eventually went on to co-develop the first programmable heart pacer in 1973. By 1980, he had co-developed the first programmable dual chamber pacer.

Continuing to see the great potential in this area, Terry also co-founded Cyberonics, Inc. which is a company that develops, manufactures, and markets neuromodulation therapies for patients with epilepsy and other neurological disorders. Terry's work did not stop here. He co-developed Vagus Nerve Stimulation Therapy, a breakthrough seizure reduction treatment for epilepsy, now used for many other conditions.

In 1993, Mr. Terry was awarded the Industrial Research, Inc. 100 Award for the Cordis Omnicor Programmable Pacemaker; was nominated for the Smithsonian Institute and Computer World Magazine Medical Technology Advancement of the Year Award; and in 1990 was nominated for the Entrepreneur of the Year in Houston.

Through all his work, Terry has managed to always give back. He endowed the Reese Terry Endowed Professorship in Electrical and Computer Engineering. In addition, he helped endow the Reese Terry Engineering Capstone Design Support for Medical and Health Applications, which provide support funds for engineering students from any discipline to pursue capstone design projects. He has served many years and many roles in the UK Alumni Association, including serving as chairman of the Diversity/Group Development Committee. Terry served on the UK Electrical and Computer Engineering Advisory Council and the UK Gill Heart Foundation Advisory Board. Because of his accomplishments, he was inducted into the University of Kentucky College of Engineering Hall of Distinction and was honored by the Alumni Association with its 2018 Distinguished Service Award.

Reese S. Terry, Jr. is recommended for an honorary Doctor of Engineering Letters from the University of Kentucky.