MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR THOMAS A. MURPHY

The Board of Trustees records with sadness the death of Thomas A. Murphy January 18, 2006. Mr. Murphy served as a member of the Foundation Board of Directors, and was instrumental in the remarkable success of the University of Illinois’ two university-wide capital campaigns in the early 1980s and 1990s. The Board of Trustees awarded him its Distinguished Service Medallion, the University of Illinois Alumni Association bestowed upon him its Achievement Award, and he also received the College of Business’ Distinguished Alumni Award.

Mr. Murphy received a Baccalaureate Degree in Accountancy from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He was the chairman and CEO of General Motors Corporation from 1974 to 1980. Rising through the ranks of this organization he led General Motors during the period of its greatest sales. He also successfully guided GM through an oil crisis and the retooling of the company to satisfy new customer demands of smaller, fuel-efficient vehicles. After retiring as CEO in 1980, he remained as a member of the board until 1988.

Thomas Murphy also served as chairman of the Business Roundtable, an association of top CEOs in the United States; as director of the United Negro College Fund; and the United Way of America Board. In addition, he served as a board member for various private corporations.
A dedicated advocate for the University, Mr. Murphy shared his time and talents by serving on the University of Illinois Foundation board’s Executive Committee, Campaign Planning Committee, Financial Resources Council, and as a National Network Volunteer. The School of Music, the Department of Accountancy, and the College of Business were recipients of his generosity as well.

The Board of Trustees pays tribute to the memory of Thomas A. Murphy’s devoted service to the University of Illinois and extends condolences to his wife of nearly 65 years, Catherine R. “Sis” Murphy, and all other family members.

Further, the Board directs that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for Mrs. Murphy.