

Board Meeting
January 31, 2019

RESOLUTION FOR JAMES D. MONTGOMERY, SR.

During your twelve years as a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, your seasoned judgement, steady hand and unwavering loyalty have guided the U of I System through challenging times and into its next 150 years of life-changing service to students and the public good.

As an alumnus of both the University of Illinois at Navy Pier and the College of Law at Urbana, you brought unique insights rooted in the past and focused on the future that you shared generously with five presidents and dozens of fellow trustees.

Your more than six decades of first-hand experience stoked a deep passion for our universities that helped us steer past the choppy waters of change and toward our ambitious goal of making the U of I System the model for higher education in the 21st century.

Every step of the way, you made sure we never lost sight of the core missions we have carried since our land-grant founding – accessibility, affordability, and opportunity for all.

There has been no greater champion for diversity, and you have encouraged university administrators to never ease up in their efforts to ensure that our students, our faculty and staff, and even the vendors we hire match the rich diversity of our state and nation. Your voice will resonate long after you leave the board, supporting programs that

will be a springboard to success for minorities, women, people with disabilities, veterans, and all who might otherwise be marginalized.

Thanks to your view from both our classrooms and our board room, you also have provided a rare perspective that has been invaluable in helping us understand the many divergent needs of our students, faculty, and staff, and our stakeholders in government, business, and non-profit sectors.

Throughout your term, you gave generously of your time and expertise as you represented the Board on many committees and external organizations. As a valued member of the Board's Executive Committee for the past few years, you were always available to transact the urgent business that needed action prior to the regularly scheduled Board meetings. You also volunteered your time and talents to the State Universities Civil Service System Merit Board for your entire term. Your sensitivity and fair-mindedness to individual cases was deeply appreciated and made a vital contribution to this important body.

From your service to the Board to your distinguished legal career defending plaintiff rights, you have set an example for the power that the U of I holds to make a difference in the lives of students and in our world.

Your colleagues across the system will greatly miss your sincerity, empathy, wisdom, good humor, and dedicated service.

The President and the University officers, the faculty members, students, and staff members join with the Board in this tribute to you, and in extending best wishes to you, your wife, Pauline, and your family.

The Board of Trustees directs that this resolution be incorporated in the minutes of today's meeting to become a part of the official public record, and that a suitable copy be given you as a permanent reminder of the esteem and affection in which you are held.