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The University of Wyoming Alumni Association

Hathaway Receives Medallion Service Award



The first time Stan Hathaway came to the University of Wyoming, he wasn't able to stay long enough to finish his degree.

After graduating from Huntley High School in 1941, Hathaway attended the University of Wyoming for a year before World War II interrupted. After flying 35 combat missions in a B-17 "Flying Fortress" for the Eighth Air Force, Hathaway headed west to return to Laramie. He didn't quite make it.

"I planned to come back to Laramie to finish my degree," Hathaway explains, "but my brother decided to attend the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, and he talked me into going to school there so the two of us could be together. When I came back to Wyoming after graduation I found it to be both a political and professional handicap that I did not return to UW to graduate. UW alums stick together, and I had to become friends with them before they would accept this Nebraska lawyer — the fact that I attended the University for at least one year probably saved me."

After receiving his LL.B. in 1950, Hathaway and his wife Roberta settled in Torrington, where he set up a law practice. He served two terms as Goshen County Attorney, and was elected governor of the state of Wyoming in 1966.

"I have always had a close relationship with the University of Wyoming," Hathaway says. "As governor, I was deeply involved in the planning and budget proceedings, and I served as an ex-officio member of Board of Trustees. The University of Wyoming is a very fine institution — it has played well to the state's strengths, and the colleges of agriculture, law, engineering, commerce and industry are very good."

Hathaway and his wife have two daughters, Susan and Sandra, both of whom attended the University of Wyoming.

In 1970, Hathaway ran for reelection, beginning his second term with the largest majority ever received by any Wyoming gubernatorial candidate. Following his retirement as governor, Hathaway served as Secretary of the Interior in President Ford's cabinet. Today, he is a partner in the Cheyenne law firm of Hathaway, Speight and Kunz, in addition to serving on the board of directors of several corporations.

By 1975, the University of Wyoming Board of Trustees decided that Governor Hathaway had been around long enough. He received an honorary Doctor of Laws from UW.

When Stan Hathaway remembers his single year as a UW student, one incident comes immediately to mind. "In the fall of 1942, I was working as a hasher in the Kappa Kappa Gamma house. Another of the hashers that year was Jack Ellbogen of Casper. In 1942 there was, naturally, a predominance of women on the campus — the few young men who hadn't gone off to war yet had a delightful social life, and some of the girls in the house invited the hashers out to dance.

"Unfortunately, one of the hashers left the water running in the kitchen of the sorority house, and it eventually flowed into the dining room, on into the living room, and finally dripped on the sleeping cook's head. She fired us all.

"I must confess that when Jack Ellbogen was named a distinguished alumnus in 1980, I asked him how someone who had been fired from his first job with the University could receive this honor. Now I'm sure he will be asking me the same question."

"I found it to be both a political and professional handicap that I did not return to UW to graduate," says Medallion Service Award recipient Stan Hathaway with a smile. "The fact that I attended the University for at least one year probably saved me." A former U.S. Secretary of the Interior and two-time Governor of the State of Wyoming, Hathaway has been deeply involved in UW's affairs and recently participated in the Milward L. Simpson Lecture Series in Political Science.



The Bronze Seal, resting on a yellow ribbon, is given to both the Medallion Service Award recipient and the University's Distinguished Alumni. The Alumni Association seal bears a rendition of Old Main and the book and scroll from the seal of the University of Wyoming.

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