Wilkes University
Commencement, January 15, 1998
Citation for the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science
CHARLES E. MYERS, M. D.

Native of Kingston, earning both your A.B. degree in 1935 and your M.D. degree in 1939 from the University of Pennsylvania, you completed your internal medicine training at the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital before joining the war effort in 1942 as a paratrooper in the United States Medical Corps. You were awarded the Legion of Merit for your handling of the psychiatric casualties in the Mediterranean Theatre. In 1946, you were discharged as a Lt. Colonel, returned to the Wyoming Valley and took additional training in pulmonary diseases before opening your own private practice one-half century ago. Showing your innovative leadership in health care, you established in 1962 a group practice, the Associated Internists of Wyoming Valley, which became a model for excellence in health care delivery. For the Wilkes-Barre General Hospital during your nearly forty years of active practice, you provided leadership in a variety of roles: chairman for twelve years of the Long-Range Planning Committee, chief of the Department of Medicine, chief of staff of the hospital, and Founder-in-Chief of the Anthrosilicotic Clinic, the first free clinic for thousands of disabled miners, particularly addressed to the asthmatic problems associated with mining anthracite. Just as with your role in developing the Wilkes/Hahnemann program to train future physicians for the Valley, you also took the lead in improving the overall health care system of our area, serving as Vice President of the Health and Hospital Planning Council for the Wyoming Valley. Your professional colleagues have bestowed upon you both leadership responsibilities and awards for your distinguished service, including the presidencies of the Luzerne County Tuberculosis Society and the Pennsylvania Thoracic Society. In addition, you served as Chairman of Governor Milton Shapp's Advisory Committee on Pneumoconiosis. The Pennsylvania Society of Internal Medicine bestowed upon you its Distinguished Internist Award.

But you have not only been the outstanding Internal Medicine Physician in our area, and the specialist in chest diseases, you have also been an artist, an environmentalist, an author and an outstanding tennis player. Your paintings of landscapes, both natural and man-shaped, inspired by your travels throughout the world with your lifelong companion, Virginia, but also capturing the natural beauty of this area, were celebrated recently with a much heralded exhibition at the Hoyt Library. Your book on the return of the Shad to the Upper Susquehanna reflects both the scientific scholar and the naturalist/environmentalist, who as a founder and past president of the Lu-Lac Environmental Council helped found the Environmental Council of Northeast Pennsylvania. As an historian, you have published through the Wilkes University Press a study of your colonial ancestor, Thomas Bennet, and oft he colonial experiences of the Connecticut settlers. It is entitled A Connecticut Yankee in Penn's Woods and is as fine and focused an introduction to the period of the 1760's and 1770's in the Wyoming Valley as one will find. It also reflects that sensitivity for family that your three children, Charles, Jr., Fred, and Mary Ann and your four grandchildren have all experienced. For all of these activities and the many other contributions to the intellectual, cultural, and social health of this Wyoming Valley community, I am particularly pleased by virtue of the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University and by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to bestow upon you, Charles E. Myers, the degree Doctor of Science, Honoris Causa, with all the rights and privileges appertaining thereto.