

Honorary Degree

Doctor of Laws.....Thomas H. Kean

In a life dedicated to public policy and education, you are an example of what courageous leadership and a resolute commitment to genuine public service can do to advance the cause of democracy.

Elected as the 48th governor of the state of New Jersey, you will be forever known as one of the Garden State's most popular chief executives. With compelling modesty, and ambition first and foremost for New Jersey's success, you served your state and its citizens with distinction and produced impressive results. Re-elected to a second term by the largest margin in state history, you are praised for education reforms, landmark environmental initiatives, restructuring welfare and instituting tax cuts that spurred a statewide economic renaissance. Recognized nationally for your passion for education, while Governor, you were named as chair of the Education Commission of the States and the National Governor's Association Task Force on Teaching.

After leaving the Governor's office in 1990, your enlightened and farsighted leadership in the field of education made you the right choice to become Drew University's 10th President. Shall we say you were "perfect together"? In 15 years as Drew's president, and Professor of Political Science, you stressed the importance of teaching, emphasized the creative use of technology in the liberal arts and focused attention on the importance of developing in your students a global perspective. You increased Drew's endowment from \$75 million to over \$200 million and committed more than \$60 million to new construction. Your presidential leadership provided direction, innovation and inspiration that has raised Drew University's national standing and reputation as a liberal arts university.

Having established an unprecedented standard of integrity as a statesman, patriot and exemplary citizen, in December of 2002 you were asked by President Bush to lead the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks upon the United States. Nineteen months later you and your fellow commissioners released your final report which led to the largest intelligence reform in our nation's history. You have had a vantage point into the history of our nation that few will ever know. With an agenda that sought to do what was right for the American people - to make our nation safer and to preserve the ideals of our democracy - your greatest legacy may become your leadership of this bi-partisan commission and the governmental reforms resulting from it.

With great admiration and appreciation for the life you lead, we celebrate today your wisdom, your vision, your compassion, and your unwavering and distinctive service to your nation. By the power vested in me by the Board of Trustees of Wilkes University, and the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I hereby confer upon you, **Thomas H. Kean**, the doctorate of laws, Honoris Causa, with all the rights and privileges thereto appertaining.