

BOWDOIN COLLEGE

COMMENCEMENT 1994

RICHARD A. WILEY, of the Class of 1949, successful lawyer, long-time Overseer and Trustee, fast friend of the College -- so much is familiar. But a closer look at Dick Wiley's life reveals a great many little things that, to a casual contemporary observer, might appear out of line -- not in the usual order of things. While a member of the Class of '49, he graduated in 1948 summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with High Honors in Government. In what would normally have been his relaxed senior year at Bowdoin he was completing the rigorous first-year program at the Harvard Law School (and serving -as a private in the Marine Corps Reserve); in what would have been his second and third years at Harvard, he was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford where he read law (unusual for Americans at that time) and took the degree of Bachelor of Civil Law with honors. Back on these shores, Rhodes Scholar Wiley did not simply finish law school and move easily from triumph to triumph; in 1951 America was making stern demands on her young men and it was back into uniform for Wiley, this time in the Air Force where he rose to Staff Sergeant, through Officer Candidate School, to an Air Force Commendation Medal and a Reserve majority. (Only in 1959 would he receive a masters degree from the Harvard Law School.) Admitted to the Massachusetts Bar in 1954, while he was still in the Service, Dick Wiley returned to civilian life in 1956, and in not too long was climbing the ladder at the famous Boston firm of Bingham, Dana and Gould. By the early 1970s he was Managing Partner, a powerful and demanding position which for many lawyers would be the capstone of a career. Not for Wiley. In 1976 he went to Washington a Chief Legal Officer of the Department of Defense with the rank of Assistant Secretary, serving through a difficult and dangerous period when the end of the cold war could not even be imagined. When the shifting tides of politics returned him once again to "civilian life," Dick Wiley chose not to return to the practice of law, but launched into a new career in banking which has now come full circle to a business law practice where he specializes in the matters of public and private finance he so thoroughly mastered, and about which he has written extensively since the early 1960s. Throughout these busy professional years he has served not only on a variety of business boards, but in literally dozens of positions of educational and charitable leadership including at various times Chairman of the Massachusetts Higher Education Coordinating Council and of the Massachusetts Education Loan Authority. He served on the Board of Overseers of this College from 1966 to 1981, and as its President from 1977 to 1980; he served as Trustee from 1981 to 1993. He is a long-time member of the Council on Foreign Relations and has written widely on legal and educational topics. So, while Dick Wiley's dates don't always fall into the predicable order, and while he seems to have had a number of intertwined careers rather than the conventional one or two, a Chamberlain, or a Hyde or a Sills, looking at his record, would recognize it instantly. They would see a risk taker, a person of tenacious intellect, insistent

on clarity of thought and expression, a seeker of challenges, in no part a shirker, and person with a high sense of civic virtue -- a combination of traits which their College was distinctively dedicated to fostering.

Scholar, soldier, lawyer, financier, educator, loyal son of Bowdoin, servant of Bowdoin, and leader of Bowdoin. President Edwards, I am honored to present to you RICHARD A. WILEY for the degree of DOCTOR OF LAWS, honoris causa.

Presented by Professor Richard E. Morgan