

MICHAEL STANLEY DUKAKIS

Doctor of Laws

Presented by James P. Whitters, III '62, P'95, '97, former member, Trinity College Board of Trustees

Escorted by Kevin J. McMahon, John R. Reitemeyer Professor of Political Science and

Charles A. Dana Research Professor of Political Science

In the autumn of 1933, the heart of the Great Depression, you were born in Brookline, Massachusetts, to an immigrant family whose success exemplified the American Dream. Your father and mother emigrated from Greece to America with their families in 1912 and 1913, respectively. Your father attended Harvard Medical School and became a respected obstetrician, and your mother graduated from Bates College.

In Brookline, where your parents settled after they were married, you attended public schools. A member of the Boy Scouts of America, you earned the rank of Eagle Scout and, as an adult, were honored with the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, which is presented in recognition of significant career accomplishments and at least 25 years of distinguished service, after attaining the level of Eagle Scout, to one's community.

After graduating from Brookline High, you enrolled in Swarthmore College, graduating in 1955. From 1955 to 1957 you served in the Army, stationed primarily in Korea as part of the Support Group to the United Nations Delegation to the Military Armistice Commission. After being discharged, you enrolled in Harvard Law School, earning your law degree in 1960.

That same year, you launched your political career at the municipal level as an elected Town Meeting member and chair of the local Democratic organization in your hometown. Two years later, you won a seat in the Massachusetts legislature, where you would serve for four consecutive terms.

In 1970, you were your party's nominee for lieutenant governor. Though you lost the race that year, it was an important stepping-stone in your career. Four years later, you were nominated for governor, and this time you won handily.

With the victory, however, came daunting challenges. The state was suffering from a record deficit and unprecedented unemployment. Resolving those problems engaged you for your entire term and you were defeated in the Democratic primary in 1978. But you displayed one of the hallmark behaviors for which you are known, tenacity, remaining engaged in public affairs and maintaining a prominent profile. And in 1982 you were re-elected governor. In 1986 you won a third term, and that year you were named the nation's most effective governor by the members of the National Governors Association.

Two years later, you were honored with your party's nomination for the presidency of the United States. Following that election, you completed your term as governor and then left public office in 1991.

In the ensuing 22 years, you have been a distinguished professor in Northeastern University's Political Science Department, a visiting professor in UCLA's Luskin School of Public Affairs, and a distinguished fellow at Northeastern's Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy. In addition, you have taught at Florida Atlantic University and served as a member of the faculty in the senior executive program for state and local managers at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government. You also served as vice chair of the Amtrak Reform Board. Your passion for national health-care policy reform has resulted in extensive research and a series of papers in such leading journals as the *Yale Law and Policy Review*, *The New England Journal of Medicine*, and the *Journal of American Health Policy*.

For a lifetime of service to your nation, your state, your community, and your profession, I have the honor of presenting you, Michael Stanley Dukakis, for the degree of Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*.