

## **ROSS ALLAN WEBB**

**By Steve Blankenship**

Dr. Ross A. Webb, the sixth child of William O. and Purdy Webb, was born in Westchester, Nova Scotia on July 11, 1923. Following graduation from Cumberland Academy in Amherst, Nova Scotia in 1941, he served in World War II as a coordinator between industry and the Royal Canadian Air Force. His education endeavors continued at Charles Community College in Amherst and Mount Allison University at Sackville, New Brunswick. In 1949, Webb received a Bachelor of Arts degree with honors at Acadia University at Wolfville, Nova Scotia. At the University of Pittsburg he received a Masters of Liberal Arts in 1951 and a doctorate degree in 1956.

Dr. Webb married Ruth Keil in Glenshaw, Pennsylvania on June 19, 1954, and had two sons: Alan and Eric. In the fall of 1956, he accepted a teaching position at the University of Kentucky as an associate professor of history and Director of Undergraduate Studies. In 1967 Webb joined the staff of Winthrop College, assuming the position of Dean of the Faculty a year later. Between 1971 and 1975, Webb served as Vice President for Academic Affairs, ultimately leaving that position to teach history full-time. Dr. Webb retired in 1989 to become Winthrop's Official Historian.

During his 36 years at Winthrop, Dr. Webb served on the Honors Council as faculty representative to the Winthrop Board of Trustees. His honors include the Algernon Sidney Sullivan Award (1974), the Distinguished Professor at Winthrop Award (1977), Who's Who in America distinction, and the Excellent in Writing Award at the Sixth Annual Winthrop Writers Conference. He was a member of Phi Kappa Beta, Phi Kappa Phi, Omicron Delta Kappa, and Phi Alpha Theta, and honored as a Kentucky Colonel.

One of Dr. Webb's many contributions to Winthrop was to secure the university's coat of arms, a unique distinction for the school. Symbolic of the college's commitment to excellence, the project was researched, produced, and registered by the College of Arms, under the direction of the Queen of England. On December 15, 1980, Dr. Webb planned the elaborate convocation for the presentation of the coat of arms, personally delivered by Ulster's King of Arms, J. P. Brooke-Little.

Dr. Webb was the author of numerous articles and four books including (1) *The Alaskan Boundary Dispute, 1779-1903* (published in 1951 by the US Department of State), (2) *Benjamin Helm Bristow: Border State Politician* in 1969, (3) *Kentucky in the Reconstruction Era* in 1979, and *The Torch is Passed*, a history of Winthrop College, in 2002.

Dr. Webb served in leadership roles with Kiwanis, AARP, the Catawba Area Agency on Aging, the York County Council on Aging, and the Senior Advisory Board for Piedmont Healthcare. In addition, he served on the Medical Review Board of the Carolinas and supported the Friends of Brattonville. Gifted in the art of music, Webb sang professionally with the Pittsburgh Symphony and enjoyed playing tennis, traveling with his wife several times to Wimbledon in the British Isles.

Ross Webb was a man of religious convictions, being ordained as a Deacon in the Episcopal Church in Lexington, Kentucky and later ordained into the priesthood in 1981. During his time in South Carolina, Webb served many parishes including the Church of Our Savior in Rock Hill (1967-1971), the Church of the Good Shepherd in York (1971-1973), St. Paul's in Fort Mill (1973-1979), and Christ Church, Lancaster as Assistant Priest since 1981. Dr. Ross Webb passed away November 25, 2003, survived by his wife, two sons, and a grandson.