

UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH

LEGACY LAUREATE SOCIETY

Robert H. Davis

Whereas you ...

Graduated from Jeannette Senior High School in 1939, where, as a member of the track team, you set a record for running the fastest half mile in the State of Pennsylvania, an accomplishment that would be recognized when you were inducted into the Westmoreland County Chapter of the Pennsylvania Sports Hall of Fame and the Jewish Sports Hall of Fame of Western Pennsylvania;

Attended the University of Pittsburgh on an athletic scholarship, lettering three years in cross-country and track and captaining both teams during your senior year, and supplemented your scholarship by sweeping the steps of the Cathedral of Learning; it was at Pitt that you met Phyllis Levine, the woman who would become your wife of more than 60 years;

Were an officer candidate in the Navy College Program, and five days after earning your Bachelor of Arts degree in Business in 1943, you reported for duty and served your country in World War II as a member of the United States Navy, enduring six months of an air bombing campaign over Great Britain and engaging in combat during the earliest days of the Allied Forces' D-Day Invasion of Normandy at Utah Beach;

Returned to Pennsylvania in 1946 and began working for your father, expanding his corner grocery store in Greensburg into a successful supermarket chain, Davis Supermarkets, which you led as president for nearly 50 years and which received numerous national awards, including Brand Names Outstanding Food Retailer of the Year;

Are a member of the "greatest generation" whose personal vow "to always help others at every opportunity" inspired you to become an early champion for hiring workers with disabilities, which led to your being named to President Lyndon Johnson's Committee on Employment of the Handicapped;

Have been actively involved with almost every civic organization in Westmoreland County, including helping to establish the Head Start program in Greensburg and holding leadership positions with many others, and have been recognized for your tireless commitment with many commendations, including the Fred Funari Mental Health America Award of Distinction; the Israel Bonds Man of the Year Award; and the University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg President's Medal for Distinguished Service in recognition of your service on the Pitt-Greensburg Advisory Board, which you chaired and continue to serve as an Emeritus member,

I hereby designate you a Legacy Laureate, one of the University of Pittsburgh's most distinguished alumni.

Mark A. Nordenberg

Presented by
Chancellor Mark A. Nordenberg,
the 26th day of September 2013

