

Dr. Edward Bunker Taylor

Auburn/Davidson '42

Oxford Cup Roll N° 029

Honored by members of Delta Zeta chapter (Auburn) as “our founder, advisor and most active brother,” Ed Taylor also enjoys the distinction of holding the same roll number in two chapters. A native of Southport, S.C., in Beta’s 100th year he was initiated N° 452 on the Davidson roll.

On Nov. 18, 1958, several Auburn students were invited to Brother Taylor’s home to hear Dr. Seth R. Brooks, *St. Lawrence '22*, on his first visit to Auburn. This led to formation of The Beta Pi Club, later to become Beta Pi colony. Approval of a charter was at the 1964 Convention, and installation of Delta Zeta chapter with 41 charter members was on Nov. 19, 1964. Many triumphs of this group have been credited to Founder Taylor’s leadership as chapter counselor, faculty advisor and president of the house corporation. On Jan. 11, 1985, as numbers 448 through 451 were initiated, the ritual was interrupted to insert Dr. Taylor as N° 452, then resumed for numbers 453 through 457.

Auburn, a perennially outstanding chapter and winner of a Sisson award every year since the award’s introduction, has named the newly completed chapter hall-pavilion addition in his honor. At the 1997 General Convention in Washington, DC, Delta Zeta became one of the first two chapters to qualify for the distinguished John Reily Knox award signifying the most outstanding chapters in the entire Fraternity.

A graduate in history and later textile management, he received a master of arts degree in vocational guidance from Columbia and a Ph.D. from Nebraska in adult education. He was Auburn’s advisor to fraternities and student affairs for 25 years after having been assistant professor of textiles 1957-63 and assistant director of engineering extension 1963-66.

Ed and the former Helen Bryson married in 1950 and have two daughters, Dr. Betsy Nance and Nancy Lloyd, a teacher. Both live in Richmond, Va. A Methodist Sunday School teacher and coordinator of lay speaking for his area since 1970, Ed has held numerous denominational leadership positions.

He is a retired Army Reserve colonel. His three years of World War II Army Air Corps active duty included Okinawa and Japan. He holds the Distinguished Service Medal, Award of Meritorious Service Medal and three battle stars. He received the honorary Golden Eagle Award of the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame in 1990, was president of the Faculty Club of Auburn University in 1970 and was a member of the Governor’s Commission on Physical Fitness.

Brother Taylor has been a member and officer in many professional, honorary, college and civic organizations. Having served as State Director for Alabama in the American Association of Retired Persons for five years, he is currently the State Training Coordinator for AARP in Alabama.

Robert T. Howard, DePauw '37, General Fraternity Historian