



April 28, 1991

Wyandotte Distinguished Graduate Inductee



Virginia R. Allan
Class of 1935

Virginia R. Allan has had a distinguished career as an educator, businesswoman, civic leader, and stateswoman. As an educator, she pioneered with Detroit's Job Upgrading Program to help drop-outs return to school or find meaningful employment. After establishing four job centers, she was named an Assistant Principal of Redford High School. For 15 years, she was also the Co-owner and Executive Vice President of Cahalan Drug Stores, Inc., in Wyandotte.

In 1964, she was appointed Regent of Eastern Michigan University by the Governor of Michigan, a position she held for ten years. In 1969, she was named to chair President Nixon's Task Force on Women's Rights and Responsibilities and in 1972, she was named Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs. Virginia became a much traveled proponent of human rights, placing emphasis on equity for women in this country and its policy implications internationally. She was the U.S. Representative at the 1974 Conference to NATO Information Officers; accompanied leaders of non-government organizations to Brussels at the invitation of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization; headed U.S. delegations to the United Nations seminars on "Participation of Women in the Economic Life of Their Countries" in Moscow, U.S.S.R., and Libreville, Gabon, Africa; was invited to speak by the Institute of Personnel Management of London, England at the 1973 Conference on Equal Pay and Opportunity; co-chaired the Economic Cooperation and Development Meeting on the Role of Women in the Economy. In 1971, she was a member of the delegation to Paris, France, to plead for the release of American Prisoners of War and was a guest of the Federal Republic of Germany on the occasion of the 20th Anniversary of the American Foreign Assistance (The Marshall Plan). She was a member of the U.S. delegation to the World Conference for International Women's Year in Mexico City in 1975, and the World Conference in Copenhagen

in 1980, and in Nairobi in 1985; she is the only person to serve as a U.S. delegate to all three conferences.

Virginia is a Past President of the Michigan and National Federations of Business and Professional Women. From 1977 to 1983, she headed the Graduate School Women's Studies Program at George Washington University. She is the immediate Past President for the U.S. Committee for the UN Fund for Women, Inc., (UIFEM). Also, she is a trustee for the National Foundation for Business and Professional Women.

Virginia graduated Phi Beta Kappa from the University of Michigan and received the University's Outstanding Achievement Award in 1964. She counts among her several distinctions, Honorary Doctor of Laws, Letters, and Public Administration degrees from Olivet College, Central Michigan University and Eastern Michigan respectively.