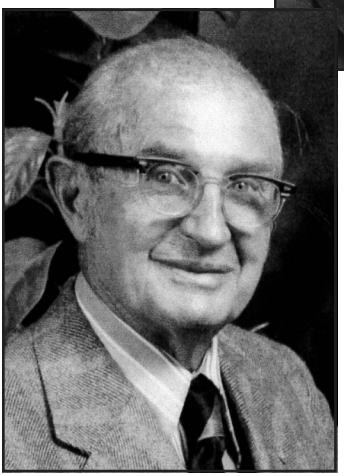
# Karl Van Meter

Karl Van Meter was the first male graduate of the new University City High School after transferring into the school. He went on to receive bachelor's and master's degrees from Washington University. In college, his passion for public service enabled him to secure a fellowship grant in 1923 to enroll in the university's new graduate school of economics, which convened in the Washington home of University President Robert Brookings.



**Karl Van Meter**
*Class of 1917*

Van Meter then worked as an economic analyst for the New York Telephone Company, which later became AT&T. He also hosted the radio program "Air College," discussing current events and utilities in the city. In 1936, when it became highly unlikely that the next World's Fair would be staged in Europe due to the unrest there, he served as a member of the 1939 New York World's Fair Corporation.

During World War II, Van Meter served as chairman of the New York City Red Cross War Fund Drive, raising more than $800 million for relief efforts. Van Meter's dedication to supporting servicemen and servicewomen continued as the executive vice-president of the National USO, overseeing clubs and providing entertainment to more than 100,000 patients in military and veterans' hospitals.

In the 1950s, Van Meter served as a founder and first national executive director for United Cerebral Palsy, organizing local chapters nationwide and raising funds for affordable and accessible care for individuals with cerebral palsy. Upon retirement, he moved to Florida. He died in 1981.

*Posthumous