



## THE LEGACY OF RUSSELL H. PERRY

In 1961, the City of Dallas gained one of its greatest assets when Russell H. Perry was transferred from New York to Dallas to become the president of Republic Insurance Company. With almost tireless effort, Perry began to dedicate himself to numerous organizations, charities, civic projects and institutions throughout the city that over the years would benefit and aid the future of Dallas.

The heart of Mr. Perry is best seen in a statement he

made in 1975. "My personal philosophy," he explained, "always has been that any success I enjoyed as an individual or as a corporate executive meant that I had an obligation and privilege to repay the community and its people for the opportunity I was given."

According to the one who knew him best, helping others was just a way of life for Russell Perry.

"He really loved Dallas," remembers Perry's wife, Phoebe. "When we moved here in 1961, we found out that if you're willing to work at some-

thing, then you were immediately accepted by the community. He loved it.

"He would always make time to serve on a board. He would come home with a box full of things to do every night. He didn't have any hobbies. His hobby was working. He never would have retired."

For over seven years, Perry served as the chairman of the Board of Advisors. Because of DBU's emphasis on business and the free enterprise system, Perry was especially supportive of the College of Business. For his contributions on behalf of the University, Perry was awarded an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1986.

In 1988, DBU began an annual fund-raising dinner which celebrated community service and the American free enterprise system. As discussion came as to after whom the award should be named, the unanimous opinion was Russell Perry, who had just months earlier passed away. To date, 19 dinners have been held, 24 individuals have been honored, and over \$2 million has been raised for scholarships for DBU students.

"Mr. Perry was one of DBU's most dedicated volunteers, always willing and ready to support the institution whenever it was needed," explained Dr. Gary Cook, DBU president. "Mrs. Perry continues this legacy, and we are so pleased that she has remained strongly committed to the University and also the Russell H. Perry Award Dinner Scholarship Program. The Perrys provide a wonderful example for our faculty, staff, and student body of what a heart committed to God and to others can do."



*Mrs. Phoebe Perry, attending the 2004 Russell H. Perry Award Dinner.*