

Speech by:

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Attorney General of North Carolina

South Cafeteria
East Carolina University
Greenville, N. C.

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OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS AWARD

Some men do what other men dream of doing. Men dream of competing in the world of big business. They dream of planning, building and developing gigantic shopping centers. They envision constructing magnificent churches, huge industrial complexes, and handsome office facilities. Many men dream of being successful business executives, accepting risky challenges in the world of high finance, making on-the-spot decisions involving millions of dollars, and flying home to report a profit. And we must not overlook men's dreams of being a respected community leaders - contributing to the betterment of society through participation in civic, fraternal, religious, and educational interests.

It is interesting to note that these activities have become a very routine part of the life of our OUTSTANDING ALUMNUS OF 1972, Mr. Robert L. "Roddy" Jones.

Each year the Alumni Association of East Carolina University selects one alumnus from many outstanding nominees to receive the Outstanding Alumnus Award. This is the highest honor the Alumni Association can bestow upon an alumnus in recognition of achievements, accomplishments, and contributions which reflect credit upon his Alma Mater.

Roddy Jones, the man we honor today, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Seby B. Jones of Raleigh, N. C.

He graduated from East Carolina College with a B. S. degree in 1958 and after graduation, returned to Raleigh where he became associated with Davidson and Jones, Inc., commercial and industrial contractors. Roddy is now Executive Vice-President and Secretary of that firm. Davidson and Jones, Inc. is said to be the largest construction firm in the Raleigh area and prides itself in being a "total job" concern which involves planning, designing, financing land purchase, lay-out design, supervision of architectural work, preparing estimates, setting up construction crews, and supervising construction. Our outstanding alumnus, as Executive Vice-President, is directly involved in all of this.

Roddy is involved in major building projects throughout the entire State. The project probably most familiar to us, built and developed by Davidson and Jones, Inc., is the

fabulous new Crabtree Valley Shopping Center in Raleigh. Crabtree Valley is said to be the largest shopping center between Washington, D. C. and Fort Lauderdale, Florida. His company is also beginning another shopping center approximately 2/3's the size of Crabtree Valley on the other side of Raleigh, to be called Raleigh Mall. At the same time, they are building and developing Crabtree Executive Park, which consists of three multi-story office buildings and a nine story motel.

At times Roddy finds himself a part of as many as twenty major projects at one time, and has supervisory duties involving all of these projects under development. Due to his busy schedule related to these duties, as well as meeting business appointments and conferences, he pilots his own airplane.

Roddy's position with Davidson and Jones, Inc. is by no means his total professional involvement. Other business interests include partnerships in the following concerns:

- a. Northside Distribution Center
- b. North Raleigh Development Company
- c. Homestead Village Mobile Home Park
- d. S & J Development and Leasing Company
- e. The Lacasa (La cá'sa) Apartments in Raleigh.

In addition to his business interests, he is currently a member of the following organizations:

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In addition to his business interests, he is currently a member of the following organizations:

- a. Board of Directors of the Bank of North Carolina N.A., in Raleigh.
- b. The Rotary Club
- c. Board of Directors of Associated General Contractors of America (Carolina's Branch)
- d. Carolina Country Club
- e. White Memorial Presbyterian Church in Raleigh
- f. Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
- g. Planning Committee for the Leadership Institute of the Raleigh Chamber of Commerce
- h. East Carolina University Pirates Club
- i. Board of Directors of the Raleigh Rescue Mission
- j. Advisory Crafts Committee of Wake County Occupational Education.

He is also past chairman of Carolinas' Construction Training Council.

One very significant former position was that of President of the Raleigh Bachelors Club. The young lady who finally brought that activity to an end is the very charming Linda George of Raleigh who is not Linda George Jones. They have two children - Robert Davidson Jones (age 18 months), and Christina Linda Jones (age 8 weeks).

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It takes courage and business insight to negotiate multi-million dollar deals on the spot and fly home to begin construction on a major shopping complex the next day. It takes mental discipline to set up construction crews one minute and supervise architectural work on an intricate and ornate church structure the next. It takes dedication to profession to spend the long tedious hours away from family to negotiate the details of business of the six organizations in which he is a partner or officer, or both.

It takes concern for the betterment of society and the education of youth to spend long hours and financial resources in civic, community, and educational causes. It takes interest and concern in the progress and welfare of East Carolina University to become its first member of the President's Club. Roddy has indeed proved that he possesses these attributes and is to be commended for his outstanding contributions to the business world, and to his Alma Mater; and for bringing credit to himself, his family, and East Carolina University.

It is appropriate then that one of the two Teacher Excellence Awards being sponsored by the Alumni Association will be entitled the Robert L. Jones Award for Teacher Excellence. Boddy, you are indeed a very worthy recipient of the 1972 Outstanding Alumni Award and I congratulate you.

In addition to the Outstanding Alumni plaque, we present a Captain's Chair bearing the ECU seal and appropriate engraving in recognition of the fact that you became the initial member of the President's Club which includes those who contribute \$1,000 or more per year to the ECU Alumni Loyalty Fund.