



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE

ALBERT H. DENSMORE
FORMER MAYOR OF MEDFORD
and
FORMER SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
OREGON HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Gresham-Fairview Chapter

Al Densmore's life is a quintessential journey of a young man and how he took his experiences and what he learned in DeMolay and lived a life of Public Service always in the pursuit of serving others, and making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Albert H. Densmore joined DeMolay as a young man at Gresham-Fairview Chapter. Al came from a Masonic Family. His Dad was a Master Mason and his mother was in Eastern Star. Sadly, Al's Father passed away creating a giant void in his life when he was entering his teenage years; a time a self-described shy young man clearly needed his Dad and draw from his example and wisdom. Al's Mother quickly introduced DeMolay to Al, where he had a very good friend Harold Lewis.

Al moved quickly through the ranks and became Chapter Master Councilor, after which he served as District Master Councilor, and was elected as State Master Councilor in 1966. After he completed his term he continued his education receiving a Bachelor's Degree in Political from Portland State University, and a Masters Degree in Secondary Education from Southern Oregon University, after which Al became a Teacher in the Medford Oregon School District. During this period Al also served as an officer serving our Nation in the United States Army Reserve retiring as a Major in 1995.

As Al concluded his active service in DeMolay he maintained friendships with many of the DeMolay Brethren who meant so much to him. One key friend was Spence Benfield from Sunnyside Chapter in Portland, who wrote Al a message, he carries to this day, that encouraged Al to continue beyond his DeMolay service to a life of Public Service, giving back to his community, the State of Oregon and making a positive difference in the lives of others. Brother Spence believed Al had proven his leadership skills in DeMolay and displayed the personal



standards of integrity and concern for his fellow Oregonians that would make him an effective leader. That note from his good friend and DeMolay Brother was the impetus that began his long journey of Public Service.

In 1971 Al was elected as State Representative, became Majority Whip, after which he was elected Speaker Pro Tempore of the Oregon House of Representatives by his peers. Al wanted to served his beloved Oregon on a broader scale, so in 1976 he ran for the nomination as Secretary of State. During that campaign with all his connections in the legislature and the political world, he reached out instead to his DeMolay Brother Spence Benfield to help lead his campaign. Al always believed in maintaining his relationships and building upon them throughout his life. After his defeat, he did not give up, only to run for Mayor of Medford, where he defeated the incumbent Mayor and served six successful years.

While not serving in the legislature and in the Mayor's role, Al still taught High School and transitioned eventually into the Insurance Industry. In addition, Al continued to serve numerous civic groups, community boards, and organizations. Al truly believed that beginning back in his DeMolay experience and throughout his life that "there is no finish line to Public Service". His life continues to be one of service and devotion to his community, his family, his friends, and to causes greater than himself.

Oregon DeMolay is proud to honor Albert H. Densmore as he is inducted into the Inaugural Oregon DeMolay Hall of Fame.