

Alumni Recognition

“Life G” – Last Revised 11.2.11

1. Introduction.

The “Life G,” Geneva’s highest alumni honor, is presented each year to a graduate for service above self, who embodies the principles for which Geneva College stands, and whose efforts on behalf of the College, the community, and the nation have been exemplary. The award is also a means of honoring alumni for exemplifying Geneva’s standards, mission, and commitment to servant-leadership.

2. Origin. The awarding of the “Life G” dates back to the 1930s.

The Alumnus, Vol. 6, No. 2, January, 1930, p. 8

“At a recent meeting of the Executive committee of the Alumni association it was unanimously voted that, beginning with the June, 1930, alumni banquet and reunion, the association would annually at its June gathering give the letter ‘G,’ together with a silver loving cup not to exceed in price the sum of \$50.00, to the Geneva graduate who since completing his or her college course has done most in the way of carrying out the college motto, ‘Pro Christo et Patria’—the presidents of the alumni association, college and board of trustees, respectively, being the judges or persons making choice in advance of the recipient. A similar custom has been in vogue for years in certain other higher educational institutions and with good effect. Among Geneva’s sons and daughters are not a few who have achieved distinction in the line above indicated. The difficulty of the three who are to make the choice annually, we venture, will not be to discover one worthy of the honor, but to select the one most worthy. Doubtless all will be particularly interested in the first choice made. It is understood that the recipient is at no time to have any advance notice of his choice.”

The July, 1947, issue has a picture of the 1930 award recipient, William H. Coverdale, ’91 (p. 11), and has this caption:

“The winner of the first prize awarded (henceforth to be annual) by the Geneva Alumni Association to the Genevan who since graduation is deemed by the presidents of the college, the board of trustees, and the alumni association, to have achieved since graduation the most in the line of the college motto, ‘Pro Christo et Patria.’”

3. Selection Process.

The Recognition Committee is comprised of three members of the Geneva College Alumni Council and the Director of Alumni Relations. Prior to the meeting of the recognition committee, the Director of Alumni Relations will prepare information to aid in the selection process. This includes compiling eligible names of Distinguished Service Award (DSA) recipients who have not yet received the “Life G.”

The Recognition Committee recognizes its responsibility to make selections that can and should bring honor to Geneva College. In doing so, the recognition committee should seek to conduct a thorough review of eligible recipients, and acknowledges the possibility that even with such a review all significant information about a candidate may not always be known.

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It should also be the committee’s desire to remain consistent with Geneva’s aim and objectives as a Christian college. The presentation of the award is to bring honor to both Geneva College and the recipient.

This Recognition Committee makes recommendations of individuals who are deemed worthy and appropriate “Life G” award recipient(s) to the leadership of Geneva College. The college administrators will notify the Executive Committee of the Board of Trustees of the proposed Life G recipient.

The president of Geneva College will notify and congratulate the award recipient as soon as possible following the final ratification.

4. Selection Criteria.

Alumni who have previously been awarded the DSA are the only eligible persons to receive this award. The most significant attribute is a clearly demonstrated walk with Jesus Christ (‘Pro Christo’). Other pertinent data, when available, includes professional information and accomplishments, education, church affiliation and involvement, and service to country (‘et Patria’) to include civic and community activities. Another important factor for consideration is the nominated individuals loyalty and service to Geneva. The committee will seek to select candidates whose life accomplishments and character exemplify a balance of these categories.

5. Presentation.

The “Life G” award is presented at the annual Alumni Dinner. Recipients of the award are expected to attend the dinner to be recognized and honored. While attendance is desirable, circumstances may warrant exceptions.

The award recipient shall receive a commemorative plaque, and a diamond-studded gold lapel pin symbolizing the “Life G.”

Approved October 14, 2010 by the President’s Executive Committee: President Ken Smith, Ken Carson and Larry Griffith