DELTA KAPPA EPSILON

ETA Chapter H
University of Virginia
1852-2002

- Friends from the heart forever -

HISTORIES
"There are 31 steps to the DKE house, you got to love it"

The objects of DELTA KAPPA EPSILON are the cultivation of general literature and social culture, the advancement and encouragement of intellectual excellence, the promotion of honorable friendship and useful citizenship, the maintenance of gentlemanly dignity, self-respect, and morality in all circumstances, and the union of stout hearts and kindred interests to secure to merit its due reward. (Reprinted from the DKE Handbook for Pledges)
DEKE SWANSONG

Over your shoulder, half-way out the door, is the only time when you really realize what it has meant to you to be a Deke at Virginia. You spend four years doing things—pushing the bandwagon perhaps, pushing yourself too—then, after it’s all over, only a little time is left to just appreciate what an honor it was to be a Deke in the first place. You wonder how you were good enough to get in. You feel a little ashamed that you didn’t find time to pay the House back more for what it did for you. But, most of all, you think back over the really happy moments you had at the University—the true high spots—and you realize how most all of them came to you right under this roof, or somewhere else where the House was with you, working for you. That’s what makes it so hard to leave.

A bit of advice to anyone who may pick up this book: Like as not, you are a new Deke, or a comparatively new one. Hear what an old Deke (it seems strange to speak of myself that way; it all went by so fast) has to say. It is this: Push for the University; find out your talents around the Grounds and give it everything you have, for the House; but don’t be too busy working the House and the University to appreciate what there is to offer right in the House itself. The friendships, the fine feeling of working together and living together in a worthwhile cause. Study hard, but not too hard. You’ll find that one important part of what you learned in this place came not from books but from people—and there are no finer people on God’s green Earth than you have the privilege to be with right under this roof.

Thank you all—you know for what—and the best of luck always.

Harry Noble Taylor (1951)

This excerpt is taken from the minutes of the annual final meeting, May 20, 1951, and was first published in Eta’s Centennial booklet.
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