

Distinguished Alumni

Distinguished Alumnus Award – 1980

Peter McBean '30

Years of devoted leadership and affection for Cate School, have distinguished you as one of the most influential and appreciated alumni in the School's history. You have given your time, your energy, and your generous support for the last half century.

There were only thirty-nine other boys when you entered the School, and your life was enriched by the individual attention that you received from Mr. Cate. Years later, you still recall with nostalgia and pride your love of horses, gymkhana team competitions, and the friends you made while here on the Mesa. Returning to your native San Francisco after Cate, you worked for your family's business, Newhall Ranch. Until, the outbreak of World War II led you to join the United States Marine Corps. For distinguished service, you were awarded two battle stars in the Marshall Islands and the Okinawa Campaigns, and you received a Navy Unit Citation. At your discharge, you had achieved the rank of captain.

Following the war, you returned to Newhall Ranch, but it was your philanthropic service to countless San Francisco organizations which fulfilled your life. That level of service to Cate began in 1949, when you were chosen as a member of the Board of Trustees. The board, recognizing your hard work and loyalty, elected you its president in 1965. A position you held for ten years and its chairman for three additional years. During your tenure, as a trustee, you provide each of the School's five headmasters with your strength of purpose, your steadfast interest in Cate's future, your unassuming leadership style, and most importantly, your friendship. You served as chairman of the Fiftieth Anniversary Development Committee, the Long-Range Planning Committee, and the Development Committee as a strong proponent of coeducation; you encouraged the board to consider this timely critical decision.

When you relinquished the president's gavel in 1975, your fellow trustees elected you a life trustee, an honor bestowed only to the few who have provided exceptional leadership and devotion during your tenure. As a member of the board, the School's enrollment had increased to nearly two hundred students, and the School saw the addition of numerous facilities – including the magnificent McBean Library, but never during these significant changes did your underlying principles differ from those of Mr. Cate.

You have dedicated countless hours and immeasurable energy to the success of this School. For your devotion and for your leadership which has influenced the School in so many ways, the Cate School Alumni Association proudly names you, Peter McBean '30, the distinguished Alumnus for 1980.