

# **THEODORE RYLAND SIZER**

1932-2009

**TWELFTH HEADMASTER**

**OF**

**PHILLIPS ACADEMY**

1972-1981

WHEREAS Theodore Ryland Sizer served this academy and this nation with distinction, to their greater good. He brought to keeping school a breadth of vision and a depth of commitment uniquely his own, vision and commitment shaped by optimism and softened by an unburdened heart, a forgiving nature and boundless mirth.

AS HEADMASTER, Ted Sizer led the Academy through nine years of momentous change. He inspired students and their families, faculty, trustees and alumni alike to appreciate not only what Andover had been and stood for, but what it could become. He managed the difficult merger of Phillips and Abbot, forging the best of each into the Andover we know. He orchestrated a bicentennial celebration that engendered pride, rekindled connection and garnered critically needed resources. He promoted reaching out through programs benefiting constituencies beyond Andover Hill, yet also enriching the educational atmosphere on campus for students and faculty.

AS A NATIONAL LEADER, Ted Sizer championed school reform for decades. Mentor, teacher, researcher, author, administrator and advocate, with cheerful persistence he called upon schools to foster habits of mind, habits leading to a better life for individuals, communal betterment for all. There was in Ted Sizer something of that progressive reformer of a century earlier, Teddy Roosevelt: both men vigorous in personality, both immensely appealing, both inspiring a nation by word and deed. A purposeful idealist, Ted Sizer taught, must be one who harnesses his beliefs to a real plow.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we, the Trustees of Phillips Academy, hereby offer our condolences to the Sizer family. We mourn the loss of a great friend, a fine man, an outstanding educator.

November 6, 2009