

# Mercy College Remembers Honorary Degree Recipients for Their Service to the College and the Community

## DONALD M. KENDALL

Mercy College mourns the passing in September 2020 of **Donald M. Kendall**, legendary business leader and co-founder of PepsiCo Inc., who will be remembered for his contributions to educational institutions, including Mercy College. Kendall was a distinguished veteran, acclaimed businessman and political affairs adviser to United States presidents and foreign dignitaries. Mercy is grateful to have called Kendall a friend and supporter, and proud to have presented him with an Honorary Degree in 1977 and a Founders' Day Medal in 2009. Kendall was introduced to Mercy College by former Mercy College Trustee Donald J. Matthews, who now serves as Trustee Emeritus: "As a pro-active mentor to me, Donald (Kendall) was generous with his time and made a lasting impact on the few students he was able to meet. He connected with Mercy students' grit and passion to get ahead." Mercy College cherishes Kendall's legacy through Matthews and through students who benefitted from his wisdom. We are deeply saddened by his passing and grateful for his contribution to the College.



Donald M. Kendall and Donald J. Matthews

## DORIS BUFFETT



Marjorie Jones (l) and Doris Buffett

Photo provided by Sunshine Lady Foundation, Inc.

Cherished friend, generous donor and 2003 Mercy College Honorary Degree recipient **Doris Buffett** passed away in August 2020 at the age of 92, leaving behind the fruits of a vast philanthropic labor that bettered the lives of countless individuals. With the goal of giving away her entire fortune during her lifetime, Buffett donated more than \$150 million of her own money to fund a variety of community service programs close to her heart. To achieve her goal, Buffett established The Sunshine Lady Foundation, Inc., which supported causes including prison education programs.

Buffett was first introduced to the idea of funding prison education, an eventual major focus of her philanthropic efforts, through Marjorie Jones, former Mercy assistant professor and conduit between Buffett and the College.

Jones presented prison education as a potential philanthropic investment to Buffett and invited her to attend a Sing Sing graduation ceremony. Moved by the event, Buffett added prison education to her funding priorities and The Sunshine Lady Foundation, Inc. began supporting organizations focused

on this subject throughout the country, including the Mercy College collaboration with Hudson Link and Sing Sing Correctional Facility.

Buffett's contributions to the Sing Sing program made it possible for Hudson Link to expand their prison education resources. The Hudson Link location has honored Buffett's support, and greater championing of prison education, by naming their office building the Doris E. Buffett Building for Higher Education in Prison. The Mercy College/Hudson Link partnership robustly persists, with the annual graduation ceremony at Sing Sing being one of immense celebration and gratitude where Mercy College President Tim Hall personally confers degrees.