

On the Occasion of the  
Conferring of the Doctor of Laws Degree, honoris causa  
upon

**David L. Peebles**

by Christopher Newport University

May 12, 2001

"I have always believed that you have to give before you can get back." These are the words of David Peebles and he has lived those words for his entire life.

Businessman, community leader, philanthropist and friend of the arts and education, David Peebles has dedicated his life to improving our community and Commonwealth.

As President of Ferguson Enterprises, he built a billion-dollar company and made it the nation's largest distributor of plumbing, heating and air conditioning supplies. Moreover, he built a corporate culture of honor, civility and service to the community.

As a leader in our community, David Peebles has helped guide the Peninsula Economic Development Council, Peninsula Chamber of Commerce, the United Way of the Virginia Peninsula and the Peninsula Council – Boy Scouts of America.

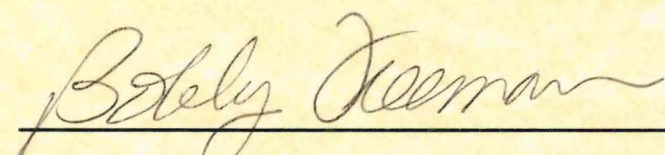
He has a passion for the arts and has served on the Boards of the Chrysler Museum, Peninsula Fine Arts Center, Virginia Symphony and Virginia Opera.

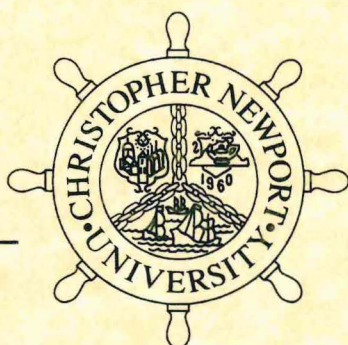
David Peebles has given his talents and treasure to the causes and organizations in which he believes. Each organization he touched has been improved by his presence.

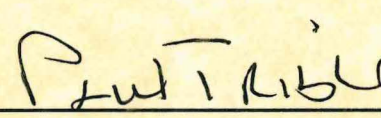
For eight years, David Peebles served as a member of the Board of Visitors of Christopher Newport University and for four years served as Rector of the Board. His vision and commitment have guided the University in a period of dramatic transformation and his leadership has contributed mightily to making Christopher Newport University one of the most popular and respected liberal arts universities in America.

The Board of Visitors of Christopher Newport University takes great pride and pleasure in conferring the Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, upon David L. Peebles, in honor of his life of success and significance and his extraordinary service to this University and to the Commonwealth of Virginia.

**Congratulations!**

  
Rector, Board of Visitors



  
President of the University