

# Honors of the Academy

The Executive Committee of the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology voted at its April, 1980, meeting to award a **Certificate of Appreciation**. The following individuals were named as the first recipients of this honor:

John J. O'Neill, Ph.D.  
Founding Member of the Academy

Delores Heckerson  
National President, Psi Iota Xi

Karen Isbell  
National Treasurer, Psi Iota Xi

The Academy expresses its profound gratitude to Dr. John J. O'Neill for his many years of service and his contributions to the cause of rehabilitative audiology. Likewise, the Executive Committee wishes to honor Delores Heckerson and Karen Isbell for their philanthropic work and their contributions of time and financial support on behalf of Psi Iota Xi to the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology.



## For John O'Neill — A Tribute

Founding Fathers are supposed to be portly, humorous, aging, detached, wreathed in clouds of pipe smoke and above all, unfailingly wise. John O'Neill is not portly, and I have not seen his pipe lighted in years, but he is without question a Founder of the Academy who has faithfully tended his offspring at more sessions for more years than any other member. He has been an officer and a member of the Executive Committee every year since 1966. He has suggested, directed, cajoled, and exhorted all of us to greater participation, to increased activity, and to more directions of interest and concern. He has represented the Academy and its interests in the forums and programs of ASHA and before Congressional bodies. As President of ASHA, he opened the sessions to bring audiologists' viewpoints to a greater audience than ever before. Personally, he has been the quintessential rehabilitationist. As teacher, he has led many of us into his exemplary paths of clinical acumen and purity in research design and purpose. Above all, he taught us care for our patients and their present and future needs.

Just to realize that he has taught at only two Universities, Ohio State and Illinois, makes his influence on the field much more remarkable. How many of us in the Academy have been guided by John to work in, to develop, and to teach *aural rehabilitation*. How many of the members have been stimulated by his comments and programs and after-hour chats to return to our own communities and academic groves and duplicate some aspect of his good work. Surely no one has better exemplified the ripple effect in a single area of interest.

Beyond that, as an individual, he has typified the man of his days: Father during the college uprisings, he has watched his children as have others through the turmoil of the 60s and 70s to eventual direction, purpose, and place in the adult world. Husband to the activist, he has answered the prize question of the ERA--". . . and what do you

do, Mr. O'Neill?" with shock and good humor. Man in search of his soul, he probed his during a long recovery from a traumatic accident and emerged with soul steady and Irish sentimentality intact. Life has molded him from the brash, acerbic, young instructor to the tolerant, affable, mature leader who still brightens in the presence of feisty, brainy students. Now he is no longer afraid to reveal his delight in their presence, even if he has heard a hundred times all the vehement pronouncements and demands. Such is the warmth of a good teacher, a good man, and a good friend. He has been all of these to me and many others.

John's latest Executive Committee function was to design a new **Certificate of Appreciation** to be awarded for special contributions to the Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology. It is only fitting that he should be the first member of the Academy to be awarded this certificate.

Ethel F. Mussen  
Past President  
The Academy of Rehabilitative Audiology