

Marshall University

Huntington, West Virginia

Citation

Charles H. Smith

in the award of

The Doctor of Humane Letters Degree

Affectionately known to many as "Reverend Charlie," Charles H. Smith was at the forefront of many civic, political and religious changes and improvements in Huntington during the 1960s and '70s. He oversaw the rebuilding of the beautiful facilities at First Baptist Church, where he served as pastor for 20 years, and was a leader in the building of Rotary Gardens, a housing project for the poor. He was a major figure in the local civil rights movement, integrating restaurants and movie theaters. And, through a group called Soul Searchers, he worked tirelessly to help many who grieved following the tragic 1970 Marshall plane crash.

Because Charles H. Smith devoted two full decades of service to the City of Huntington, and because he provided much-needed comfort and counseling to Marshall University students and others during the darkest days in school history, Marshall University is proud to claim him as an alumnus and an individual worthy of our respect.

By virtue of the authority vested in me by the West Virginia Higher Education Policy Commission and the Marshall University Board of Governors, the faculty recommending, I hereby confer upon you, Charles H. Smith, the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, in token whereof, Dr. Sarah N. Denman, Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Provost, and Dr. Barbara Tarter, Assistant Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Enrollment Management, will invest you with a hood symbolic of the degree.



May 10, 2003

Dan Angel
President