

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

**REQUEST TO AWARD AN HONORARY DOCTOR OF HUMANE LETTERS DEGREE AT
IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY**

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree to the Honorable Charles Manatt at Spring 2011 Commencement.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to recognize Mr. Manatt for a lifetime of leadership and humanitarian contributions to the world.

Details on Mr. Manatt's Accomplishments:

- ◇ Following graduation from Iowa State University with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1958, Mr. Manatt served as an officer in the U.S. Army. In 1962, he received his Juris Doctorate from George Washington University Law School.
- ◇ In 1965, he and fellow ISU and George Washington University Law School graduate Thomas Phelps established the Manatt, Phelps & Phillips, LLP law firm that has grown to international prominence in national and international law, including commerce and trade, with offices in eight cities and a staff of more than 400 attorneys. Mr. Manatt has been admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court and is a member of the American Bar Association, Federal Bar Association, and several state bar associations. Mr. Manatt began his legal career focusing on banking and financial services. Currently, his practice focuses on international, administrative, and corporate law.
- ◇ Mr. Manatt's political engagement includes serving as chair of the Democratic National Committee from 1981 to 1985 after having served as chair of the California Democratic Party, Western States Conference Democratic Party, and the National Finance Council. In 1992, he served as co-chair of the Clinton/Gore campaign.
- ◇ Mr. Manatt's international service has included providing leadership for the National Endowment for Democracy, International Foundation for Electoral System, and Center for International Private Enterprise, working to bring democracy and free enterprise to developing parts of the world. In 1999, President Bill Clinton appointed Mr. Manatt as U.S. Ambassador to the Dominican Republic, a position he held until 2001. In 2010, he was elected President of the Council of American Ambassadors, an organization of more than 200 former U.S. ambassadors.
- ◇ Mr. Manatt has provided leadership in higher education through his service on governing or advisory boards for Iowa State University, George Washington University, Duke University, University of California-Los Angeles, University of Southern California, and Grinnell College. His generous support to ISU has included the creation of the Manatt-Phelps lecture in Political Science in 2002 with his law partner, Thomas Phelps. This lecture series brings a leading figure in international commerce or politics to campus each year.

- ◇ Mr. Manatt has provided extensive leadership to a number of philanthropic and community service organizations. He is a director of the National Museum of American History and the National Boy Scouts of America, as well as a trustee for the Wesley Foundation, Red Cloud Indian School, and Meridian International Center. His previous service includes leadership roles for the National Symphony Orchestra, Mayo Clinic Foundation, and Los Angeles Performing Arts Council.
- ◇ ISU described Mr. Manatt in the following way: “Mr. Manatt’s career has spanned more than 45 years of professional practice, civic engagement, and contributions to the country and beyond. He has emerged as a leader, an organizer, and a tireless contributor to the common good. His career stands as a shining example of the contributions ISU graduates make to Iowa and the world.”