

Contact: Diana Gonzalez

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

Action Requested: Consider approval of the request by Iowa State University to award an honorary Doctor of Science degree to Harold L. Brock at Spring 2011 Commencement.

Executive Summary: Iowa State University wishes to recognize Mr. Brock for his leadership in designing tractors that were at the forefront of the 20th century transformation of agriculture and food production through agricultural mechanization and for his other contributions to education and agricultural engineering.

Details on Mr. Brock's Accomplishments:

- ◇ In 1929, at age 15, Mr. Brock became an apprentice with Henry Ford at the Ford Trade and Apprentice School in Dearborn, Michigan and, within a few years, he became Mr. Ford's personal engineer. He rose through the engineering ranks at Ford Motor Company, achieving the title of Chief Engineer of Tractor Engineering. In 1959, he joined John Deere Waterloo Tractor Works, where he worked until his retirement in 1972.
- ◇ Mr. Brock played a leading role in the development of the Ford 9N and Deere 4020 model tractors which historians believe most influenced tractor design in the 20th century. The 9N was the first tractor to employ the three-point hitch system that is used universally in tractors today and Mr. Brock was selected by Ford to bring the 9N from concept to production. He headed the group that designed and brought to production the Deere 4020, now called the most copied tractor in history. He also played a key role in Ford's World War II development of the M3 and M4 Sherman tanks and Ford Jeep.
- ◇ Since his retirement, Mr. Brock has been active in consulting and educational activities, especially in the development of Iowa's community colleges. He was a founding member of the Board of Trustees of Hawkeye Community College in Waterloo and served as its chair from 1965 to 1980 and again in 2000.
- ◇ He is the author of several books, including "The Fords in my Past" (2000) and "The Big Book of Ford Tractors" (2006) with Robert N. Pripps.
- ◇ In 1944, Mr. Brock became a founding member of the Society of Automotive Engineers, Mississippi Valley Section and served as its president.
- ◇ He is a Fellow of the Society of Automotive Engineers and the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers (ASABE). In 2008, he received the Cyrus Hall McCormick-Jerome Increase Case Gold Medal from ASABE. In 2007, he received the National M. Dale Ensign Trustee Leadership Award from the Association of Community College Trustees.
- ◇ ISU described Mr. Brock in the following way: "Mr. Brock's career has been one of superlative intellectual and creative activity. He is a state treasure. Agricultural mechanization is 7th on the National Academy of Engineering's list of the 20 most significant engineering achievements of the 20th century and Harold Brock's innovative tractor designs were at the forefront of this transformation."