

"I'd like to think that the public would say that I tried to do a good job, that I was honest in the approach that I used, that I was not trying to play politics, and that I was reasonably skillful in the use of the tools which are available to a governor to achieve public goals."

I think above all I would like for the public to think and to believe that I was a decent man who brought some degree of honor to a vitally important profession in our country."

William G. Milliken

★ Born in Traverse City, Governor Milliken won his first election at the age of 15, as president of his freshman class. He played on the Class B state championship basketball team in 1940 and was the school's best high jumper.

★ During his college years, he concentrated in economics, history and public affairs and participated in such activities as track, basketball, and the Political Union.

★ Governor Milliken flew 50 combat missions in World War II as a B-24 waist gunner. Wounded over enemy territory and forced to bail out, he was awarded the Purple Heart, the Air Medal with two Oak Leaf Clusters, and the European Ribbon with three battle stars.

★ Governor Milliken and his wife, Helen, were married in October, 1945. They have two children, Bill, Jr., 27, and Elaine, 26.

★ In 1946, he began a successful business career in Traverse City. Under his leadership the J. W. Milliken, Inc. became one of the largest retail companies in Northern Michigan—and a leader in employer-employee relations.

★ Elected in 1960 to the Michigan Senate, his ability, progressive thinking and hard work quickly led to his selection for a leadership post.

★ As Senate Majority Floor Leader, Governor Milliken fought successfully for legislation for mental health, education, civil rights, crime control, construction safety, and minimum wage.

★ Elected Lieutenant Governor in 1964, he headed the Total Research for Improved Management Group to trim government costs. He also acted as Education Troubleshooter in resolving school contract disputes.

★ In 1969, he became Governor of Michigan. Elected to a full term in 1970, Governor Milliken is today a highly respected leader among the nation's fifty governors. The National Governors' Conference has elected him repeatedly to important posts and he is slated to become Chairman this year of the Mid-western Governors Conference which, with his leadership, is developing multi-state solutions to environmental, agricultural, transportation and other major regional problems.

