If we cherish our democracy we must also cherish those who serve it, and today we honor a man who has served us well. Bob Prittie's career is difficult to summarize succinctly, but one thread runs brightly through it - the thread of public service.

Born within sight of this mountain, he spent seven years in the RCAF and served in External Affairs in Ottawa. Forty years ago he went out of his way to become fluent in French. He then settled down in Burnaby to teach history, but soon was elected to the municipal council. He still found time to work in the community on behalf of the retarded and for various cultural causes.

Later he was elected to the Federal Parliament as member for Burnaby-Richmond, a seat he held for six years. In that capacity he played many active roles in the House of Commons. In particular he initiated the long but ultimately successful fight against the section of the Criminal Code which prohibited public dissemination of information about birth control.

A later phase saw him again back in Burnaby as municipal councillor, then as mayor, then as a member of the Greater Vancouver Regional District, and later as chairman of that body. He also served a broader constituency as a Trustee of the B.C. Municipal Finance Authority. His wide experience in government was fittingly utilized when he was selected as Deputy Minister of Municipal Affairs for British Columbia. This man has served with distinction at four levels of government; he was elected in 1976 as a life member of the B.C. Union of Municipalities and in 1978 as a Freeman of the District of Burnaby.

The measure of his work lies not only in years of service, but even more in the qualities he invested in them. A quiet man who scorns pretence, he speaks his mind openly, simply and firmly. High offices have not led to conceit nor lessened his integrity. Adversity and pain have not prevailed over his courage and his optimism. As a man no less than as a public servant he has earned a place in our esteem.

Mr. Chancellor, with genuine regard I present to you for the Degree of Doctor of Laws, Honoris Causa, Robert William Prittie.