Memorial Tribute to

WILLIAM CHARLES WINEGARD

Professor Emeritus
Department of Materials Science and Engineering

February 27, 2019

Be it resolved –

THAT the Council of the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering record with deep regret the death on January 31, 2019 of Professor Emeritus William Charles Winegard.

Bill Winegard was born in Hamilton, Ontario, but made it a point to say that he grew up in Caledonia, where his father was the mayor and the founder of Winegard Motors. Bill joined the Royal Canadian Naval Volunteer Reserve at the age of 17, and then served from 1942 to 1945 during World War II, becoming the youngest officer in the history of the Canadian Navy. After the war, he received his Bachelor's degree (4T9) and PhD (5T2) in Metallurgical Engineering from the University of Toronto, as well as a Master's degree (5T0) in Mechanical Engineering. He was part of the faculty of the department of Metallurgy and Materials Science from 1952 to 1967. As a U of T professor, he was recalled as a gifted and enthusiastic teacher. His research centered on solidification and grain growth in metal alloy systems, and with other colleagues he elevated the department to become the undisputed world leader in physical metallurgy for several decades. He also served as Assistant Dean of the School of Graduate Studies in 1964, and became Acting Dean in 1966. Although he left U of T in 1967, he continued to publish with collaborators in the MSE department until the mid eighties. In 1980, he was made a Fellow of the American Society for Metals (ASM).

From 1967 to 1975, he was President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guelph.

He was elected as a Progressive Conservative Party candidate in the riding of Guelph in the 1984 federal election. He was re-elected in the 1988 election in the riding of Guelph-Wellington. He served in the cabinet of the Mulroney government as the Minister of State (Science and Technology) from 1989 to 1990, and the Minister for Science from 1990 to 1993.

In 1998, he was made an Officer of the Order of Canada. Excerpts from the citation read: “His vocation as a volunteer extends from his experience during his varied and influential career as an educator, an administrator, a scientist and a federal politician. While President and Vice-Chancellor of the University of Guelph, he played a pivotal role in converting an agricultural,
veterinary sciences and home economics institution into a broadly-based university. He also helped to advance international education and development research while a Member of Parliament and as a Minister of the Crown.”

Bill remembered his days as a student at U of T with particular affection, recalling that he had the opportunity to interact with some of the leading figures in metallurgy as they passed through the department as visitors or seminar speakers. This led him to establish the Winegard Visiting Lectureship in New Materials Engineering, which ran from 2010 to 2016. In 2018, this gift was transformed into the William C. Wineard Award in Advanced Materials, created to recognize MSE graduate students with exceptional academic performance, who are committed to metallurgical and/or materials innovation and contributions to the advancement of fundamental knowledge.

Be it further resolved –

THAT this tribute to Professor Emeritus William Charles Winegar be inscribed in the minutes of this Council meeting, and that copies be sent to his family as an expression of the respect and gratitude of the members of this Council.

Prepared by Jun Nogami