



# CONCORD UNIVERSITY

## DOCTOR OF HUMANITIES, HONORIS CAUSA

Evelyn Lilly Blake, your devotion to Concord University and your legacy of giving are exceptional.

Your appreciation for the natural world and the arts guided your studies at Concord and has influenced your philanthropic endeavors. As a Concord student, you majored in biology, and a botany course taught by Dr. Meade McNeill gave you special inspiration. Decades later, you recall how you and your classmates enjoyed the excursions he led “in the water and in the wilds” to identify plants, a skill you cultivated.

While your abilities at plant identification impressed Dr. McNeill, your talents as a seamstress caught the attention of your art professor, Laura Ann Sarvay, who hired you as her own seamstress. Minor in art, you later had one of your creations – a wool quilt that you stitched – displayed in an Atlanta museum. Also involved in the performing arts, you played the snare drum in Concord’s marching band.

You completed your bachelor’s degree at Concord in 1942, pursued a master’s degree at Virginia Tech, and enjoyed a career in teaching.

As an alumna of Concord, you have made significant contributions to the University’s students, professors and programming. You are helping Concordians learn more about the natural world as a major contributor to The Allie Irene Strasko Research Trust Fund, which supports research and study in science.

When you learned that Concord’s marching band needed new uniforms, you graciously donated toward the purchase of this musical group’s attire.

At 97 years of age, your spirit of giving continues to shine. A bequest you have made to Concord will create the Evelyn Lilly Blake Endowed Science Fund. This very generous donation will be used to upgrade science labs, purchase science equipment, and improve the University’s science facilities.

For your exceptional generosity toward supporting and advancing your alma mater, Concord University confers upon you, Evelyn Lilly Blake, the degree of Doctor of Humanities, *honoris causa*.

CONFERRED ON  
DECEMBER 8, 2018

  
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CHAIR, BOARD OF GOVERNORS

  
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