



# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:  
Kathy Funke, Director  
News & Information Services  
812/465-7005  
FAX 812/464-1956

## **Governor Bayh to be USI Commencement speaker; honors to go to Bayh, Ken McCutchan**

For immediate release  
March 14, 1996

Indiana Governor Evan Bayh will be the speaker for the University of Southern Indiana's 1996 Commencement, to be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 4, at Roberts Stadium. Governor Bayh and Evansville historian and long-time radio personality Kenneth P. McCutchan will be the recipients of honorary doctoral degrees.

The selection of speaker and degree recipients was approved Thursday at the March meeting of the USI Board of Trustees. The Board also adopted the preliminary listing of 975 master's, bachelor's, and associate degree candidates for the University's 26th annual ceremony. The first commencement in 1971 saw 151 students receive their degrees.

Governor Bayh is being honored for his service to the people and State of Indiana. He followed his father -- former three-term U.S. Senator Birch Bayh -- into Hoosier politics in 1986, when he was elected secretary of state. Two years later, he was elected Indiana's 46th governor and is now completing his second and final term, leading an administration that put priority on sound fiscal management, economic growth, and education.

The Bayh administration is recognized nationally for sound fiscal policy that "held the line on taxes, even during difficult times." Indiana has been listed among the nation's leaders in job creation and is ranked by business analyses as being among the nation's leaders for having a good business climate. The Governor led the fight for investment and innovation in education. Among the innovative programs are Discovery Schools, encouraging local schools to restructure themselves; 4Rs, promoting basic skills learning in primary grades through access to technology; and 21st Century Scholars, which guarantees college tuition for low-income students who stay drug-free. There also has been emphasis on preparing Hoosier students for the challenges of global competition and the Step Ahead program, promoting pre-school attention ranging from pre-natal to day care.

Governor Bayh has worked with President Bill Clinton and top national education leaders as a member and in 1995 as chairman of the National Education Goals Panel. He also served as chairman of the Education Commission of the States and is one of the governors on the National Assessment in Education Panel.

Governor Bayh graduated with honors in business economics from Indiana University in 1978, and received his law degree from the University of Virginia in 1981. After clerking for a federal appeals court judge, he entered private law practice in Indianapolis. His wife Susan, also an attorney,  
(more)

was appointed by President Clinton as a commissioner on the International Joint Commission between the U.S. and Canada. She is a distinguished visiting professor at Butler University and was chiefly responsible for the development of Indiana's Office of Workforce Literacy which assists Hoosiers in need of basic skills and literacy training. The Bayhs have infant twin sons, Birch Evan IV and Nicholas Harrison.

Ken McCutchan is being honored for his lifelong service to the Evansville/Vanderburgh County community and to the University. Now a resident of Solarbron Pointe Retirement Community, he spent most of his life on the historic family homesite acquired by his great-grandfather as a land grant in 1835. McCutchan was born on and still owns 115 acres of that family tract in northern Vanderburgh County.

The family history sparked his lifelong interest in community history and led to his authorship of five books -- *From Then Til Now* (1969), the story of McCutchanville; *A Pictorial Study of the Old Vanderburgh County Court House* (1972); *Saundersville, The English Settlement* (1978); and *At the Bend of the River: The Story of Evansville* (1982). While researching the first book, he came across the legend of Isaac Knight, which he developed into a fascinating children's book published by Greenwich Book Publishers of New York.

McCutchan graduated from Evansville College in 1935. He served with the Army Corps of Engineers in North Africa and Europe during World War II. After the war, while still in Europe, he enrolled in the Sorbonne in Paris and earned a certificate in French language and culture. When he returned to the U.S., he became a veteran's counselor and produced a radio show targeted to assisting service personnel in finding postwar employment. It was through that program he was invited to help launch a new radio station, WIKY. McCutchan was the first on-air voice on August 4, 1947, and worked there for 26 years, in all areas of the station -- disc jockey, special programs, and news.

For five years, during its heyday, McCutchan was the house emcee at Mesker Amphitheatre and served as the on-stage host for many of the great musical entertainers of the '50s and '60s. He has been a public speaker over the years and until recently wrote a weekly column on area history for *The Evansville Courier*. McCutchan has served with the boards of numerous local and state organizations, including 15 years with the Conrad Baker Foundation, actively working to preserve and restore the Old Courthouse in Evansville. He is a life member of the Indiana Historical Society and formerly was on the Editor's Advisory Committee for *The Indiana Magazine of History* at Indiana University.

A man of many interests, he paints for pleasure and has collected the work of Indiana artists. Last year, he gave a portion of his collection of Hoosier art to USI for display and use in educational programs. He also has collected the works of Indiana writers and has given half of that collection to Historic New Harmony. USI's David L. Rice Libraray archives has been the repository of many valuable historic manuscripts from McCutchan's collection.