



# NEWS RELEASE

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

## **David L. Rice, Randall T. Shepard to be USI honorary degree candidates; Justice Shepard to be 1995 Commencement speaker**

**For Immediate Release  
March 2, 1995**

The University of Southern Indiana Board of Trustees at the March 2 meeting approved degree candidates for the 1995 Commencement, including the bestowal of honorary doctoral degrees upon David L. Rice, president emeritus of the University, and Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard. Justice Shepard, formerly of Evansville, will be the speaker for the Commencement ceremony at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 6, at Roberts Municipal Stadium, when some 940 USI students will be eligible to receive degrees.

Dr. Rice brought his family to Evansville in 1967, intending to put down roots. They had moved many times as he moved from teaching junior high school in Wallace, Indiana, while pursuing his advanced degrees at Purdue University, to faculty and administrative positions for Ball State University, including a stint in Washington, D.C., as research coordinator in the Bureau of Research of the U.S. Office of Education.

While he was on leave from Ball State in 1966, he served as vice president with the Cooperative Education Research Laboratory in Indianapolis and learned of the new educational venture in Evansville in need of administrative leadership. Rice regarded that opportunity as the "chance of a lifetime...I knew that guiding this campus was a setting that would change every few years, that there would be a new set of opportunities from time to time. That was appealing."

There were many new opportunities. The institution evolved from limited course offerings, culminating only in an associate degree, to a baccalaureate then a master's level institution. It also evolved from a regional campus housed in an old elementary school to a separate state university occupying contemporary classroom facilities on a beautiful master-planned expanse of land, a campus valued at some \$70 million. Today, the University is known for its dedicated teaching faculty who have reached out to southern Indiana to share their expertise.

Rice is a native of New Market, Indiana, and received his B.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University. He and his wife, Betty Fordice Rice, were married in

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September 1950 and have a daughter, Patricia Denise Dawson, a department store executive in York, Pennsylvania, and Michael Alan, an Indianapolis dentist. The Rices live in retirement in nearby New Harmony, Indiana, and continue their active role with the community and the University.

Chief Justice Shepard is a long-time Evansville resident who, at age 40 in 1987, became the youngest chief justice in the United States. He served the previous 18 months as an associate justice and was a Superior Court judge in Vanderburgh County for five years prior to that.

Shepard graduated cum laude from Princeton University in 1969, earning an A.B. degree and a certificate in urban studies from the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. He earned his J.D. degree from Yale Law School and prior to entering the judiciary, practiced law, served as executive assistant to Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd for five years, and was a special assistant to the Under Secretary of Transportation in Washington, D.C., for two years.

Justice Shepard holds two positions of national leadership with the American Bar Association: he is secretary of the Appellate Judges Conference, which represents some 700 federal and state appellate judges in the ABA, and is a member of the executive council, Section for Legal Education and Admission to the Bar, which oversees the accreditation of the nation's 175 law schools.

The chief justice is the author of more than 300 majority opinions for the Indiana Supreme Court. In the last five years, he has published seven law review articles in five different journals in Indiana and elsewhere. His principal avocation is historic preservation. He is a trustee of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, chairman of the Indiana Commission on the Bicentennial of the Constitution, and chairman of the Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana.

Shepard is a seventh-generation Hoosier who was born in Lafayette, Indiana, and grew up in Evansville. He is married to Amy W. MacDonnell.