

AMBASSADOR TOM BOYATT '51

Wyoming, Ohio alumnus, Ambassador Thomas D. Boyatt will share his unique views of American foreign affairs during his public address at the 2002 Foundation Day evening Celebration of Donors and Volunteers sponsored by the Wyoming School Foundation on Tuesday, September 24 at the Pendery Center for the Arts, Wyoming High School. The event is open to the public. There is no admission charge.

Foundation Day 2002 is an annual celebration featuring the visitation of a distinguished Wyoming alumnus as Master Teacher in the schools for the day. Ambassador Boyatt is the Foundation's inaugural Distinguished Alumnus/Master Teacher. During the day he will teach and meet with High School students in classes, assemblies during lunch.

The life of an ambassador shown in the media is one of glamour, ceremony, and a swirl of champaign parties. The real life of an ambassador is actually "bloody, dangerous and demanding" according to Ambassador Boyatt. He has had 10 friends killed with bullets or bombs during his time of service.

In 1969 Ambassador Boyatt was a passenger on the TWA airlines hijacked by Palestinian guerrillas. The plane was between Rome and Athens when the Palestinian guerillas overtook the crew. Having a good sense of geography, he realized that the plane was not following its prescribed course. Before the crash landing in Damascus the passengers were told that the plane was going to blow up 30 seconds after it was on the ground. As they were evacuating, Ambassador Boyatt noticed two passengers with broken legs lying under the wing of the plane. He looked around and there was an American soldier in his dress greens. The two of them helped those two passengers to safety. Everybody got out of the plane, and Syria, alive. Ambassador received the State Department's Meritorious Honor Award "for heroism in helping injured passengers to safety and taking lead in negotiating passenger release with Syria."

Ambassador Boyatt was born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1933. He graduated from Wyoming High School in 1951. Many of the basics of his life were formed in Wyoming. Those basics include an outstanding education, especially under Ferrell Betz who assigned his students to read US News and World Report and then tested them on what they read. "He was a terrific teacher and encouraged us to know what was going on internationally." His public speaking ability, confidence in himself, ability to deal with people, how to win and how to lose were also formed in Wyoming.

He received his B.A. from Princeton, and an M.A. from the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy. From 1956-59 he served in the United States Air Force reaching the rank of First Lieutenant.

Ambassador Boyatt entered the Foreign Service in 1959 and served as Vice Consul in Antofagasta, Chile (1960-62); Assistant to the Under Secretary of the Treasury (1962-64); Economic Officer at the American Embassy in Luxembourg (1964-66); and Political Counselor at the Embassy in Nicosia, Cyprus (1967-70). He returned to Washington as Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary of State for the Near East. He was Director of Cyprus Affairs (1971-74), and named a member of the Senior Seminar in Foreign

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Policy the following year. In 1975 Ambassador Boyatt became Minister-Counselor at the American Embassy in Santiago, Chile. Ambassador Boyatt was chosen to be Ambassador to Upper Volta in 1978, and in 1980 he was nominated and confirmed as United States Ambassador to Colombia. In 1983 Ambassador Boyatt was promoted to the personal rank of Career Minister of the Foreign Service. Ambassador Boyatt has served every U.S. President since Eisenhower and has known every president since Kennedy.

From 1984-88 Ambassador Boyatt was a Trustee of Princeton University. He has been a member of the Advisory Boards of the Woodrow Wilson School at Princeton, the Patterson School at the University of Kentucky and is currently a Director of the Institute for the Study of Diplomacy at Georgetown University. He teaches at the Foreign Service Institute throughout the year and spends a week once or twice a year lecturing as a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at different liberal arts colleges around the country. In 1999 Ambassador Boyatt received the Foreign Service Cup for post-retirement contributions to the Service. Several foreign governments have also decorated him. Retiring in 1985, Ambassador Boyatt became Vice President of Sears World Trade, then a partner in the IRC Group, and finally President of US Defense Systems (USDS). Currently he is President of Boyatt World Enterprises, a trading and consulting company and a Director of USDS.