



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 1984

THAD HOLT attended elementary and high school in Birmingham and college in Colorado. He headed the Works Progress Administration in Alabama and later served in Washington as Assistant National Administrator under Harry Hopkins. He was especially proud of his programs that put men to work on public projects and gave farm families help in becoming self-supporting.

He was among the leaders of commercial television and radio in Alabama and was one of the founders of WAPI, The Voice of Alabama, and WAPI-TV. He helped start the Alabama Public Television Network.

A person of untiring energy and original ideas, he served his community, state and nation in many areas. In 1950, he helped launch Operation New Birmingham (ONB) to revitalize the city's central business district and researched problems for city leaders. He was coordinator of the Community Affairs Committee, a bi-racial committee intent on touching the hearts and souls of both black and white individuals. The economic development of our city and state were one of Mr. Holt's priorities. He served as the first Director of the Alabama Industrial board and was a member of the Jefferson County Committee for Economic Opportunity from its inception.

For 35 years, Thad Holt served as Savings Bond Chairman in the state and pushed Alabama to the forefront of bond sales. His political acumen and his dedication to servicing human needs were recognized at the national level.

He served on the Board of the Museum of Art for the City of Birmingham and worked tirelessly for its development. He was instrumental in bringing many outstanding exhibits to our city.

He passed away on September 25, 1984 as final arrangements were being made for his induction into the Gallery of Distinguished Citizens.