



*“...Thank you, UGA School of Law.
You have done more for me than
I could ever do for you.”*

*– Larry Walker in responding to the honor of having
the Larry Walker Room dedicated in his name.*

*Larry Walker and his wife, Janice, are surrounded
by family in the foyer leading to the Larry Walker
Room located in Dean Rusk Hall.*

Larry Walker Honored with Room Dedication

In November, the University of Georgia and the School of Law paid tribute to one of its alumni and strong supporters by dedicating a room in honor of the Majority Leader of the Georgia State House of Representatives Larry Walker (J.D.'65).

Dean David Shipley said Walker is an exceptional legislator and friend of the university. “One of the things we really appreciate about Larry is that he often seeks out the university, offering assistance, suggesting opportunities and bringing together others who can help the university in maintaining its status as one of the premier public universities in the state. We would not be having this dedication ceremony today without Larry’s help for he was instrumental in securing the funding and state support for Dean Rusk Hall,” he said.

“Larry is a dear friend of the law school. In addition to helping obtain funding for Rusk Hall, he also assisted us with securing \$3.2 million for much needed technological improvements to the law school which will be implemented this school year. We are honoring Larry not only for his strong support in the past but for his vision and continued service to the School of Law and the university,” Shipley said.

At the luncheon, Cleveland Professor of Legal Ethics and Professionalism Ron Ellington recalled Walker’s efforts to secure the funding for Rusk Hall. “Under Larry’s direction, a plan of action emerged. ... Larry not only lent his support to securing state funding, at crucial times he made it his project. Because of his efforts, an appropriation of \$2.5 million in bonds was included in the [state] budget. Larry also traveled to Washington to talk with Senators Nunn and Fowler and helped secure \$1 million from the federal government in recognition of Secretary Rusk’s service to his country. ... However, when a revenue shortfall led then-Governor Harris to rescind the initial bond authorization, Larry had to get legislative approval once again for the state appropriation of bonds.” Ellington said the most important thing about Walker is, “Larry is a person with vision. ... This building is proof that a person with vision and steadfastness can make a difference, especially when he enjoys the respect and esteem of his peers.”

In responding to the honor, Walker said he when he first came to law school in the fall of 1962, he was “green and frightened” and came by himself. “When I returned [today for the dedication ceremony], I was more confident and accompanied by my wife, Janice, children, in-laws and grandchildren - 14 in all. It has been a wonderful journey made better by my education from the law school.”

“Truthfully, I owe the school more than it could ever owe me. And, all I can say is thank you for the honor. But, more for preparing a young, green, country boy for what has been a fantastic 36 years. I thank Dean David Shipley, UGA President Michael Adams, former Deans Ellington and Beard, Professors Sentell and Chaffin, my classmates Johnny Melvin (LL.B.'65) and Felton Jenkins (LL.B.'65) and their wives, Mary Lou and Julie, my friend Ray Goff and everyone who took time to help honor me. But most of all, thank you, UGA School of Law. You have done more for me than I could ever do for you.”

The dedication ceremony and luncheon, held November 16, was attended by approximately 40 family members and close friends of Walker in addition to university and law school representatives.

The Larry Walker Room is located on the fourth floor of Dean Rusk Hall on the university’s North Campus. Construction for Dean Rusk Hall started in 1992 and the building was completed in September 1996.