

2010 Tribute to Women Honoree – Betty Davis



“Omaha’s most branded woman...,” as one colleague calls her, “...You think history whenever she walks into a room.” The Harold W. Andersen Chair and Executive Director of the Douglas County Historical Society, Betty Davis began a life of community service during her elementary and high school years. Her leadership and story-telling style of presentation continued to inspire audiences of all ages throughout high school, college, her professional life and her cherished roll as a mother.

As a young leader Davis was active in school and community organizations, inspiring women and receiving recognition or honors for a variety of services. For seven years, Davis worked for what is now the University of Nebraska Omaha beginning immediately after graduation. She emerged as Assistant Dean of Women and Executive Director of the Alumni Society.

At one point in her life, the road for Davis began to look rough when the mother of two near-college age girls, one profoundly deaf, became a single parent. Despite these challenges, Davis maintained a magnificent career in which skill, intelligence and positivity propelled her.

Davis served in director positions at the Omaha Community Playhouse and the Western Heritage Museum before starting her own public relations firm in 1987. She has served the Douglas County Historical Society since 1997. Her positions have had a major focus of promoting the community. This was demonstrated most recently with publication of her book, *Above All Others on a Stream: Tidbits of Omaha History*, unique stories that Davis has shared with thousands of visitors on bus tours of the city.

Davis has been honored in the community numerous times for her wide-ranging contributions including the 2009 Dorothy Rasgorshek Chi Omega Woman of the Year Award; the 2003 Award of Recognition for dedication to preserving the history of Douglas County from the Nebraska Museums Association; and special achievement awards from the UNO Alumni Association and the Nebraska Chapter, Public Relations Society of America. Davis has also served on the boards of many organizations including the YWCA and Girl’s Inc. Her service as a role model to women continues to inspire others to push through with courage, ethics and determination.

