

**NCSU  
Creative Services  
Gilmore**

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A: My uncle and my brother and my cousin attended NC State. I never considered anything else, except my grandson \_\_\_ that's entering the freshman class this fall; he never considered going anywhere else. He's coming to NC State. And by the way, I'm very proud of that. That's the fourth generation of our family that's studying horticulture at NC State. So I love North Carolina State, as a young person, as a high school student, and if I had scholarships—in fact I turned down—believe it or not I turned down an appointment to West Point to come to NC State. The day I came, in the fall of '55, in a class called Introduction to Agriculture. B.A. Rice was the professor. And I sat right beside Jim Hunt; I met Jim Hunt for the first time \_\_\_\_\_. Met a lot of people in class that first week that are still good friends today.

I remember Dr. Rice saying that being an ag boy and being in the nursing business, he reminded me that dirt is what you get under your fingernails and soil is what you plant plants in. But I'd have to say Dr. Bill Block [ph] who taught \_\_\_ science by far was my favorite. He was the person that got across to me as a young man from a farm family that you can make a difference, you can change things that are wrong, and Bill Block introduced me to the real-world politics of getting involved and changing things. That was a great experience in meeting new friends and learning about subjects that I didn't even know existed, and it

opened my eyes and opened my heart and I think it opened my mind to think we can change things—keep in mind during that time there were very few girls on campus; there was practically no minorities on campus, and that was wrong. Changes were made. Some of us in the Class of '59 played a role in making those changes.

I can remember back as a student the mud paths; there were practically no paved sidewalks on campus, and we'd go the shortest distance so we'd just have a mud bath. That's probably the reason why our Class of '59 left it as a gift to the college, the first paved sidewalks and the first paved retainer walls coming out from Winston Hall, there's a big plaque that says "Class of '59." And I can remember that there were a lot of good things. There was very little landscaping on campus, practically none. And now just look around, what a wonderful job the landscape crew has done here on this campus, they're beautiful. Trees, shrubs, I would put NC State up and compare it with any university in the United States on appearance. Look at the magnificent buildings \_\_\_\_\_.

More importantly I am extremely proud of the graduates we are turning out from NC State now, and the students we've had in the past. I certainly would not be the person I am today without the honor of attending North Carolina State. I think I learned how to work with people. I gained friends that I'm still friends with 50 years later. I learned about the world, I learned about problems that needed to be solved, that need to be changed, and I said my goal is thanks to professors and the curriculum of encouraging students to reach out and help be a leader and help solve the problems of the world. It's hard to pick out one thing

because it was an exciting time to be here. It was an exciting time to be a part of seeing a college become a university, seeing a university become the great university it is today and serve not just in this nation but worldwide.

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