

**MAJOR GIFT TO DEPARTMENT
"JUDGE TED POE CHAIR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE"**

The Department is very pleased to announce the creation of the "Judge Ted Poe Chair of Political Science and Criminal Justice." This chair is the result of a major gift from Ted Poe ('70), and will forever impact students.

The new endowed chair will help majors and the Department by providing salary in perpetuity toward a faculty position in political science or criminal justice, both areas in which Ted Poe served Harris County, the State of Texas, and the Country. We are honored to use this gift in his name, as Ted Poe is in line with other great public servants to graduate from Abilene Christian including Texas Supreme Court Chief Justice Jack Pope.

The chair will also facilitate the hosting of a special guest lecturer for several weeks each school year, to speak on campus and in classes and to advise students on career growth. Finally, this endowment will also provide some research and travel funds for the faculty chair holder.

Ted Poe has committed more than three decades to public service, and at the end of 2018 retired from Congress after representing Houston since 2004. In 1970, Poe earned a B.A. degree in political science from ACU. He worked eight years with the Harris County District Attorney's Office, becoming chief felony prosecutor and never losing a jury trial. He later became one of the youngest judges ever appointed in Texas. Poe was elected six times to the bench and heard more than 20,000 criminal cases. During more than 20 years as judge of Houston's 221st Criminal District Court, he was featured in local and national media for his creative sentencing and was known for his court's low recidivism rate. In Congress, Poe has been a leading advocate for limited government, free markets, low taxes, and individual liberty. Rep. Poe served on the House Judiciary Committee, and the House Foreign Affairs Committee as chair of the Subcommittee on Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Trade, on which he was noted for opposition to the Iranian and North Korean regimes. A supporter in Washington for border security, Poe traveled regularly to the southern border to meet with local law enforcement and residents. Rep. Poe was also instrumental in working for a World War I Memorial and support for the Battleship Texas.

Poe served on ACU's Board of Trustees from 1990-2014, and received his alma mater's Distinguished Alumni Citation in 1983 and its Outstanding Alumnus of the Year award in 2009. He also established The Ted Poe Endowed Scholarship at ACU, a significant fund assisting political science majors. In May 2018, Ted Poe was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from ACU. (Pictured at right with President Schubert and Provost Rhodes).

Poe is married to Carol (Kerr '70), and the couple has four children who attended ACU—Kim (Poe '97) Reaves, Kara (Poe '98) Alexander, Kurt Poe ('01), and Kellee (Poe '04) Shoemaker, and 12 grandchildren.

Dr. Neal Coates, chairman of the Department, stated the following—"Ted Poe has been a champion for justice and freedom his entire life—as a prosecutor, criminal district court judge, and as a Congressman. We want our students to follow his example, championing the law, protecting women and victims of crime from violence and trafficking, supporting the military and veterans, opposing tyranny, and lauding Texas history. We thank Judge Poe for this wonderful and generous gift."

