

# *Dedication*

We, the graduating class of nineteen hundred and forty-four, dedicate our Annual to William von der Halben, our beloved teacher and friend. His absence from Woodward High School has been felt most keenly and sorrowfully by those of us who were privileged to know him. Mr. von der Halben dedicated his life to Woodward. It is little return to dedicate this Yearbook to him, but we do it humbly, remembering his interest in this endeavor.

Mr. von der Halben expended unflagging energy in his desire to keep our school as one he knew and loved. He always spoke of the Woodward spirit, which by his untiring efforts he sought to impart to all his students. He wished to see Woodward grow and develop into a cherished institution, mellowing with age and growing more powerful as an influence upon its students and the community. He was tireless in his devotion to his purpose. All the great efforts he made in reviving the Annual, in fostering auditorium programs, and in lending his hand in any constructive enterprise, were striking evidences of his great faith in that indefinable something which was to him the Woodward spirit. He thought first and foremost of Woodward High School to the sacrifice of his own pleasure, his own ambition, and finally, his own life.

In the military, the highest award, the Congressional Medal of Honor, is bestowed on those who perform acts and make sacrifices above and beyond the normal call of duty. We can think of no man who more richly deserves a citation for valour in education above and beyond the normal call of duty than William von der Halben.