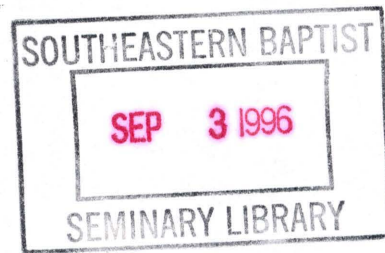


Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

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FORMER SEBTS TRUSTEE NAMED ALUMNUS OF THE YEAR

WAKE FOREST, N.C. -- A World War II veteran and pastor for 50 years has been named Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary's Alumnus of the Year.

James Roland DeLoach, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, was recognized as Southeastern's distinguished alumnus for 1996 during the seminary's annual alumni luncheon June 12 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana.

"Because of you and a few men like you, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary today bares a vibrant witness for the cause of Christ," said Southeastern President Paige Patterson upon conferring the seminary's alumni award upon DeLoach.

Patterson presented, DeLoach with a shofar, a replica of the ram's horn used by the Israelites as they marched around the walls of Jericho.

DeLoach, 70, graduated from Southeastern in 1959 having earned a bachelor of divinity degree, which is the equivalent of the current master of divinity degree.

DeLoach served on Southeastern's Board of Trustees from 1981 to 1991. In 1995, he served as president of Southeastern's national alumni association.

Patterson credits DeLoach with helping set the seminary on its current course of worldwide evangelism and record student enrollment.

"At a very critical time in the life of Southeastern Seminary, Jim DeLoach became a member of the Board of Trustees," Patterson said. "He went on that Board of Trustees at a time when most of the Board did not share his particular persuasion about the direction that the seminary ought to go. He accepted the responsibility and lost every vote for everything he proposed for the first half of his tenure as a trustee. But he hung in there and he trusted God, and he lived to see the day when the whole Board of Trustees would see things his way and voted exactly like he wanted to see it go to create a fabulous evangelical seminary on the east coast."

DeLoach's ministerial career has included pastoring or serving on staff at 12 churches in seven states. In addition to his pastoral work, DeLoach has held several denominational and associational positions including serving as president of several pastors' conferences and chairing numerous evangelism committees.

Most recently, DeLoach served as senior associate pastor at Second Baptist Church in Houston, Texas from 1978 until he retired in 1993. During his tenure at Second Baptist, DeLoach specialized

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in church growth, outreach and discipleship.

In 1980, the Baptist State Convention of Texas recognized Second Baptist Church for having the fastest growing Sunday School and church in the state.

Since his retirement from Second Baptist in 1993, DeLoach has continued to preach regularly while serving in interim pastorates, as well as leading revivals, prayer conferences and church staff retreats.

"I want to help pastors with any needs and with any difficulties they might have," DeLoach said.

DeLoach and his wife of 50 years, Doris, now live in Fairhope, Alabama where they are members of First Baptist Church, Fairhope. They have two children and four grandchildren.

A veteran of the U.S. Navy, DeLoach served in World War II from 1943-46. He graduated from Bob Jones University in 1949 with a B.A. Degree in English Bible.

DeLoach said being honored as Southeastern's Alumnus of the Year is "tremendously humbling."

"To be honored by Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary at the point and place it is in now, is the highest honor," he said. "I love that seminary. I fought for it when there was a price to pay."

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Editor's Note: If you need a photo of Rev. DeLoach please let us know.

