

Mike E. O'Neal, J.D., CPA
President Emeritus
Oklahoma Christian University

When Dr. Mike E. O'Neal was named fifth President of Oklahoma Christian University on January 18, 2002, he told a gathering of more than 1,000 friends and alumni that he was coming "to serve to the best of his ability in the same model of service as Jesus Christ." He seeks to carry that same spirit into his work as President Emeritus and on numerous charitable and business boards and projects.

A native of Hugo and Antlers, OK, and an alumnus of Oklahoma Christian, Dr. O'Neal took office June 15, 2002, after a 26-year career with at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California. On May 1, 2012, he became President Emeritus.

Dr. O'Neal attended Oklahoma Christian from 1964-1966 before completing his degree in accounting and business at Harding University in 1968. He earned his juris doctorate from Stanford University in 1974.

Dr. O'Neal has extensive experience in Christian higher education, having served Pepperdine University from 1976 to 2002 as general counsel and vice president for finance and administration before being named vice chancellor in 1991. Over the years with Pepperdine, his office was instrumental in raising in excess of \$250 million.

Dr. O'Neal served on the faculty of Harding University from 1974-1976 as an assistant professor of business administration.

A CPA, he has also worked with the accounting firms of Coopers & Lybrand; Touche, Ross & Co; and Ernst & Ernst. He scored 1st in Oklahoma and 17th in the nation on the CPA exam, while serving full-time as an officer in the U.S. Navy.

Dr. O'Neal has been a member of the California and Arkansas Bar Associations, the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, and the Oklahoma and Arkansas Boards of Public Accountancy. He served on the board of directors of California Christian School, was of counsel to the African Christian Hospitals Foundation and is a frequent seminar speaker on the topics of fund-raising and estate planning. Since coming to Oklahoma he has served on the Rwanda Presidential Advisory Council, Advisory Board for the Greater Oklahoma City Chamber of Commerce, on the Boards of Bridge2Rwanda, Association Amicus (Baxter Institute-Honduras), Ohio Valley University, Sales and Marketing Executives International, the Last Frontier Council of the Boy Scouts of America, Mercy Hospital of Oklahoma City (Chairman), *The Christian Chronicle*, Shepherd's Hill International, Inc. (Give-a-Goat; Chairman), and the United Way of Greater Oklahoma City. He is a Paul Harris Fellow in the Oklahoma City Rotary Club 29, and on the Board of Trustees of Salt & Light Leadership Training program in Oklahoma

City. He was inducted into the Pathmakers of Oklahoma County in 2013. On October 15, 2013, he was appointed Chancellor of the University of Rwanda.

Born February 6, 1946, Dr. O'Neal is the son of the late Foy E. and Margie O'Neal of Paris, Texas. He is a lifelong member of the churches of Christ and has served as an elder, Bible class teacher, song leader, preacher, vocational missionary, ministry leader and building committee chair. He received the Christian Service Award from the San Diego Christian Foundation and has served as president of the Church of Christ Foundation and as a director of the Los Angeles Church Property Corporation.

Dr. O'Neal served his country in the armed services, receiving the Bronze Star for Meritorious Service in Vietnam as an officer in the Navy. He also received Navy and Army Letters of Commendation. He has also received recognition from the Freedom's Foundation for speaking on issues of liberty and free enterprise.

Dr. O'Neal and Nancy, his wife, have two children. Michael, an OC alumnus and Pepperdine law graduate, practices law in Oklahoma City and lives in Edmond with his wife Rebecca, also an alumna and professor of nursing at OC, and sons, Will, Luke, and Jason. Daughter Mandy Brensing is an OC business and MBA alumna and works for an energy company in Oklahoma City. She is married to Russ Brensing, also an OC MBA alumnus, and they have two sons, Isaiah and Alex.