



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**DYKE BROWN, FOUNDER OF THE ATHENIAN SCHOOL IN DANVILLE,
CALIFORNIA, PASSES AWAY**

DANVILLE, CA – Dyke Brown, who founded The Athenian School in 1965, passed away peacefully on December 16, 2006, at St. Paul's Towers in Oakland, California.

Dyke Brown was born on April 16, 1915, in San Francisco. Dyke attended Bay Area public schools and graduated from Piedmont High School. Prior to attending UC Berkeley, he spent several months traveling around Europe and attended the Schule Schloss Salem School in Germany. Meeting the school's director, respected educator Kurt Hahn, and experiencing a completely different philosophy and regimen in education deeply influenced Dyke when he went on to found The Athenian School years later.

Upon his return from Europe, Dyke attended UC Berkeley and immersed himself in the study of philosophy, politics and economics. During his senior year, Dyke won a coveted Rhodes Scholarship to Oxford University. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UC Berkeley in 1936 and received a B.A. degree with highest honors. Then, as a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University from 1936 to 1938, Dyke went on to receive a B.A. and M.A. in Politics, Economics and Philosophy.

While at Oxford, Dyke visited Florence, Italy, where he met his future wife, Catherine (Kate) Whiteley from Pennsylvania. After earning a law degree with honors from Yale in 1941, he was immediately hired as Assistant Dean and Assistant Professor of Law at Yale. As America stepped into World War II, Dyke was appointed flag lieutenant and aide to Admiral Jules James, commander of the Sixth Naval District in Charleston, South Carolina. From 1942-45, Dyke was on active duty with the U.S. Navy.

After the war, Dyke returned to San Francisco, where he practiced law from 1946 until 1953, first for three years with the famed attorney John Francis Neylan and later at the firm of Cooley, Crowley and Gaither. From 1949 to 1950, as partner at Cooley, Crowley and Gaither, Dyke assisted Mr. Gaither in setting up a plan to expand the national scope of the Ford Foundation's grant programs. In that capacity, Dyke served as Assistant Director of the Study for the Ford Foundation on Policy and Program. In 1953, Dyke was elected a Vice President of the Ford Foundation, a position he held for the next ten years in New York. Kate and Dyke moved with their three children, Tish, Susan, and Chris, from Berkeley, California, to Scarsdale, New York. During his time in Scarsdale, Dyke began to focus closer attention on education and was elected to serve for a few years on Scarsdale's Board of Education.

During his years with the Ford Foundation, Dyke traveled extensively in Europe, the Middle East and Asia in connection with the foundation's work in youth development and juvenile delinquency, and was primarily responsible for the Ford Foundation's Public Affairs Program and the Program in Economic Development and Administration. In 1962, Dyke left the Ford Foundation and founded The Athenian School in Danville, California.

Construction of The Athenian School began in 1963 on what was then known as the Blackhawk Ranch, at the foot of Mt. Diablo. After opening its doors in 1965, Athenian began its life as a boarding school, serving students in grades nine through twelve and creating a community of learners in a rural setting. Instilling his educational ideals into Athenian's mission, Dyke envisioned a school with the goal of Periclean Athens—the full development of each citizen. In Dyke's own words, "The ideal of Athens is the School's ideal: a person who is strong in body and in belief, and who will act on the strength of his conviction; a person who is committed to the pursuit of truth, beauty and virtue, and to the well-being of a democratic society and of his fellow man." To this day still, intellectual growth, fitness of body and character, commitment to humane values, aesthetic sensitivity, and readiness for adult citizenship and leadership are Athenian's objectives for each student.

In 1979, a middle school was added, and Athenian began accepting day students in grades six through eight. Additionally, the demand for an Athenian education from the local community prompted the school to begin admitting more day students in the 1970s. Today, along with many new facilities and a larger number of day students, Athenian remains a close-knit family of those actively engaged in education.

After stepping down as Director of Athenian in 1977, Dyke coordinated with the Hewlett Foundation to create the Child Development Project, which focused on pro-social development of youth. This program continues today.

The Athenian School celebrated its 40th Anniversary on Saturday, October 15, 2005. Over 400 guests, including current and former students, alumni, families, faculty, trustees, staff and friends, attended the events to honor and celebrate the school's forty-year history. Dyke Brown was present during the program and made remarks, as well. Eleanor Dase, Head of School, states, "With the additional milestone of Dyke Brown's 90th birthday this past spring, Athenian has the luxury of honoring its esteemed founder, while simultaneously celebrating the extraordinary educational environment created here." Far ahead of his time, Dyke realized the importance of community service, international understanding, diversity, environmental stewardship and outdoor challenge—combined with rigorous intellectual inquiry—as integral parts of an ideal curriculum. More than forty years later, these ideals have become a model for education in the 21st century.

Family information

Dyke was pre-deceased by his wife Kate in 1996, after 56 years of marriage. They had three children: Tish Campbell (Jack) of Oakland, Susan Nebesar (Charles) of Danville, and Chris Brown (Elizabeth) of Boulder, Colorado. Grandchildren are Eric Sprague, Ethan Sprague and Cullen Sprague; Darren Nebesar-Gross, Alex Nebesar, and Kevin Brown, and 6 great-grandchildren. He is also survived by his older brother Gary from Modesto, California.

Evening of Remembrance

An Evening of Remembrance is planned for Friday, January 12, 2007, at 7 pm at The Athenian School in Danville, California. The remembrance will take place in the Center for the Arts, with a reception to follow in Kate and Dyke Brown Hall.

In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made in Dyke's name to either the Dyke Brown Endowed Scholarship Fund or the Kate Brown Endowed Scholarship Fund c/o The Athenian School, 2100 Mount Diablo Scenic Boulevard, Danville, California 94506-2002.

ABOUT THE ATHENIAN SCHOOL: The Athenian School is a distinctive San Francisco Bay Area college preparatory school, providing an outstanding education that is challenging, engaging, personal, interactive and international. With 457 students in grades 6 to 12, Athenian's 75-acre campus lies at the base of Mt. Diablo in Danville, 32 miles east of San Francisco. The student to faculty ratio is an enviable

10:1 and the average class size is 15 students. The Athenian School is fully accredited by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges and the California Association of Independent Schools.

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