

Henry Lee Shattuck

The Research Bureau's Public Service Awards are named in honor of Henry Lee Shattuck, Chairman of the Research Bureau for 17 years, from 1942 to 1958 and a guiding force behind the establishment of the Research Bureau in 1932. Mr. Shattuck was a lawyer, businessman, State Legislator and City Councillor. He personified integrity, exceptional initiative, outstanding leadership and sincere commitment to public service. These are the characteristics which are represented by each recipient of the Henry L. Shattuck Public Service Award.

Henry Lee Shattuck was born in Boston on October 12, 1879. As a young man he attended Harvard College, completing his undergraduate studies in 1901. In 1904, he received his degree from Harvard Law School. After admission to the Massachusetts Bar, he joined Ropes Gray and Gorham, a prestigious Boston law firm, where he gradually became a specialist in corporate and municipal finances, and in the management of property as an agent and trustee.

A meticulous lawyer and shrewd and careful manager of money, Mr. Shattuck was a strong advocate of fiscal integrity in government, insisting that an elected official's first duty was to protect the people's money. Following the family tradition of industry, service and stewardship, Henry Shattuck put his legal and business skills to work in

state and city government where his integrity and reliability made him a strong moral force.

In 1908, Mr. Shattuck was elected to the Republican Ward Committee, a role he maintained for almost sixty years. He was elected to the Massachusetts House of Representatives in 1919 and became a member of the House Committee of Ways and Means from 1920 through 1930, six years of which he served as the committee chairman.

Henry Shattuck decided not to run for reelection to a seventh straight term in 1930 in order to concentrate on his newly elected position as Treasurer of Harvard. In 1934, he returned to public life as a Boston City Councillor. He served four successive two-year terms on the Council, enjoying his role as financial watchdog of that body. Mr. Shattuck's respect and influence grew and in 1942 he was once again elected to the House of Representatives, where he served on the Committee of Public Service from 1943 to 1948.

In 1948, at the age of sixty-nine, upon completing a quarter century of distinguished service to the State Legislature and the Boston City Council, Henry Shattuck decided the time had come to relinquish his career as an elected official. He was never again a candidate for public office. At the time, the political editor for the Boston Traveler, Cornelius Dalton, voiced the thoughts of an appreciative electorate when he called him, "one of the truly

great legislators of this century on Beacon Hill. He had intellect, integrity and an intense devotion to public service and was absolutely fearless." No Boston political figure in this century was held in higher bipartisan esteem than Henry Shattuck.

Even as a private citizen, Henry Shattuck remained involved in public affairs and issues until his death in 1971 at the age of ninety-one. Because of his interest and support, many young candidates founded careers in public office, enriching the fabric of local government beyond his own lifetime. Henry L. Shattuck had truly proven that one person of conviction can make a difference.

Based on "Henry Lee Shattuck: Ideal Politician" by John T. Galvin