

**UNIVERSITY OF OREGON COMMENCEMENT CEREMONY  
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**INTRODUCTION OF MRS. CORAZON AQUINO  
BY  
PRESIDENT DAVE FROHNMAYER**

It is not unusual in our lives for crises to arise that test the breadth and depth of all we have and are.

They push us to the edge of our ability to deal with them.

They push our will, our intellect, and our courage to the limits.

They push the best of what we have inside ourselves — what we are at the core — to rise to the often overwhelming challenge.

Some of those challenges we face are personal, touching our lives in their deepest recesses. Others are broader, reaching to the hearts of our communities and nations.

In these times, we look inward for strength, but we also look outward for guidance — for leadership — for someone who can make a difference.

I mention this now, because it is particularly important that each person graduating today know that they can and must make a difference — our families and our friends, our communities and our world need that difference.

And I mention it because our commencement speaker is one of those people who have made a difference.

Rising above personal loss, she found the will, the intellect, and the courage to address the overwhelming challenges facing her nation.

Rising to meet those challenges, she found the inner strength to offer the leadership needed by her nation.

Rising in a way that serves as a unique example of what one person can do, she has made a difference.

"The experience of democracy," said former U.S. President Jimmy Carter, "is like the experience of life itself — always changing, infinite in its variety, sometimes turbulent, and all the more valuable for having been tested by adversity."

It is my great honor now to present to you one who has been tested by adversity — one who has made a difference that will not diminish over time in substance or force of example — the former President of the Philippines, Corazon Aquino.

### **CONFERRAL OF THE DEGREE**

It is my great honor, on behalf of the University of Oregon, to confer this honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy on Corazon C. Aquino, who has transformed her nation and inspired the world with her courage, integrity, and accomplishments. Assuming leadership of a country under martial law, she left it an open democracy. Inheriting a landscape of violence and oppression, she made possible a clear view of peace and justice. Casting aside the burdens of her personal tragedy, she became a symbol of historic importance and hope for the people of her nation and the world. She has offered a shining example of the power of one person's aspirations, as well as an enduring vision of the possibilities of the democratic process for all people.