

After graduating from Vanderbilt University and serving brief periods in the Army and with Exxon Corporation, John Hall joined Ashland Inc. in 1957 as a chemical engineer. He was elected a vice president in 1966 and a director of the corporation in 1968. He became president of Ashland Chemical Company in 1971 and was elected executive vice president of the corporation in 1974. He was elected vice chairman of the board and chief operating officer in 1979 and chairman and chief executive officer on October 1, 1981. He retired as chief executive officer on September 30, 1996, and as chairman of the board on January 30, 1997. He served as the first chairman of Arch Coal Company and retired from that position in December 1998. John Hall served for multi-year periods as a director of Bank One Corporation, CSX Corporation, GrafTech International, United States Enrichment Corporation (USEC), and Humana Inc., until reaching the mandatory retirement age for these boards. He served as chairman of the board of Bank One Corporation for several months during a management transition. He is past chairman of the Vanderbilt University board of trust and served as a trustee from 1987 until 2008, and is a member of Vanderbilt's Engineering School committee of visitors. In addition, he served for many years as chairman of the Vanderbilt board of trust athletics committee and continues to maintain an active interest in Vanderbilt athletics. He serves on the board of trustees of Transylvania University, and has received honorary degrees from the University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Centre College, Pikeville College, Eastern Kentucky, Kentucky State, Marshall, Morehead State, Northern Kentucky and Transylvania universities. He is past chairman of the Commonwealth Fund for Kentucky Educational Television (KET), Leadership Kentucky, and the Blue Grass Community Foundation, past president of the Kentucky Historical Society Foundation, and past president of the Markey Cancer Foundation and still serves on this board. He is past chairman and councilor for life of The Conference Board and a former member of the board of directors of New American Schools. He is an honorary director of the American Petroleum Institute, past chairman of the National Petroleum Refiners Association, and a former member of the board of directors of the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland. Mr. Hall served as Kentucky state chairman for the United States Olympic Committee from 1991 to 1996. He graduated in 1955 magna cum laude from Vanderbilt University where he was co-captain of the 1954 football team, and named to their Inaugural Athletics Hall of Fame in 2008. In 2010 he was named to the Tennessee Sports Hall of Fame as a Lifetime Achievement Inductee. He was elected to the Verizon Academic All-America Hall of Fame in 2001. He received the W.T. Young Lifetime Achievement Award in 2015 from Commerce Lexington, and in 2016 KET produced a documentary about John Hall's life, entitled "The Kentucky Commodore". He was the recipient of the Eagle Award from the Conservancy of Southwest Florida in 2017 – the highest award given annually for philanthropy. He was born in Dallas, Texas, and reared in Knoxville, Tennessee. His only son, John L. Hall, resides in Boston, Massachusetts. His only brother, James E. Hall, is past chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. John Hall and his wife, Donna, reside in Lexington, Kentucky, and Naples, Florida.