CONTENTS

Preface ix

Acknowledgments xvii

one LIFE REVIEW 1

two THE FORMATIVE YEARS 25

three A PROFESSIONAL APPRENTICE 47

four FORGING WASHINGTON CONNECTIONS 69

five BUTLER AT THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF AGING 91

six EXPANDING THE SCOPE OF GERIATRICS 115
seven RECASTING THE NEW GERONTOLOGY THROUGH THE INTERNATIONAL LONGEVITY CENTER 139

eight AMERICA’S AGING VISIONARY 165

EPILOGUE 189

Appendix: Prologue or Introduction to Life Review 199
    References 219
    Index 253
Dr. Robert N. Butler became the “Visionary of Healthy Aging” here and abroad by dint of his five decades of groundbreaking research, influential writing, prudent institution building, and diligent networking. He helped to transform the study of aging from a marginal specialty into an intellectually vibrant field of inquiry. Gerontology now attracts the attention of renowned scholars, emerging professionals, students, and other experts who are determined to understand the secrets of longevity and healthy aging. Butler designed, underwrote, and conveyed perspectives on aging rigorous enough to impress scientific peers and practical enough to sway policy makers and politicians. A psychiatrist and geriatrician, Butler also initiated changes in the training of physicians and other health professionals on how to care for the elderly. All this had a profound impact on altering the lay public’s images of the aged: Butler gave people reason to question stereotypes that demeaned late life and cause to focus on healthy, productive aging.

With Butler’s death a formative chapter in the history of gerontology and geriatrics ended: we are unlikely to see in our lifetimes anyone so