
In the years since his death, Vance has been the subject of numerous biographies. Many historians have focused on his role as a wartime governor and his efforts to promote the state's economic recovery. Vance is also remembered for his role in the state's education and cultural institutions, including the founding of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the state's flagship university.

Vance was a complex figure, his legacy is still debated. Some see him as a hero who stood up for the state he loved, while others view him as a man who was more interested in personal power and wealth. His legacy is a reminder of the ongoing debates over the role of government and the rights of individuals in a democracy.