



## John T. Wilson

Born in Evansville, IN on March 21, 1932, John T. Wilson attended Bosse High School where he played trumpet for band director Larry Johnston and was influenced by Gamma Chapter charter member Claude B. Smith – then Supervisor of Music for the Evansville Schools.

Wilson earned his BME from Evansville College in 1954 and MME from Butler University in 1960, also completing advanced course work at Indiana University and Indiana State University. Except for one year (1958-59) when he was Director of Instrumental Music in Noblesville, Mr. Wilson spent his entire career in Roachdale, IN: from 1954-58 as vocal and instrumental music in grades 1-12; as instrumental music only for most years between 1959-69; and Director of instrumental Music for North Putnam Jr.-Sr. High School (Roachdale and nearby communities following school consolidation) from 1969 to 1994.

During his outstanding career, Mr. Wilson's concert bands consistently earned 1<sup>st</sup> Division ratings at ISMA and ISSMA contests. His marching bands were ISSMA State Finalists on eight occasions: 1984, 1986, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992, and 1993 with the band finishing in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in 1989, 1990 and 1991. Under his direction, the North Putnam bands marched in the Washington D.C. Cherry Blossom Festival, the 500 Festival Parade, and Disney World along with performing for the opening of Union Station in Indianapolis.

Professionally, Mr. Wilson has been active in ISMA and then ISSMA for many years as an adjudicator and contest official. He served as President of ISMA in 1963, was a member of the merger committee that created ISSMA, and then as President of ISSMA in 1983. Memberships include the ASBDA, Phi Beta Mu, and Indiana Bandmasters Association where he also served as President. He served on the Purdue Music Camp Staff for many years including 15 years as Assistant Director, was also Assistant Director of the Great Lakes Music Camp, and was on the staff of the Sousa Honors Band in Washington, D.C and also the staff of the NBA Honor Band in Chicago.

Honors accorded Mr. Wilson include Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster (1987), induction into the Hall of Fame (2000), Legion of Honor (Bandworld-1992), the Sudler Order of Merit (1992), and nomination for Indiana Teacher of the Year recognition (1991). In retirement he continues to be active in Gideons, Library Board, a 50 year member of both Masonic Lodge and Scottish Rite, and a very active and involved member of the Roachdale Christian Church. He also works as an Instrument Representative for Paiges Music and is very active for ISSMA as a contest worker and official.

John Wilson and his wife Bernice have two children, Tom and Susan, and three grandsons.