



HERBERT B. LASWELL, 1919-2010

PORT CHARLOTTE, Fla. -- Herbert B. Laswell, 91, Port Charlotte, and formerly Noblesville, died Dec. 9, 2010, in Port Charlotte. Herb was the last living charter member of Gamma Chapter. He and 19 other distinguished band directors started Gamma Chapter in 1953.

Mr. Laswell directed the Murat Shrine Temple Band from 1955-69. He was also director of instrumental music for Noblesville High School from 1947-54, and Westlane Junior High School, Washington Twp. from 1956-63. He was the manager of the Operations Division of Indiana State Selective Service from 1963-73. He was a U.S. Army veteran of World War II.

He was married to Vera E. Laswell who preceded him in death. He is survived by a son, Bruce H. Laswell; three daughters, Carol B. Vandebark, Deborah A. Pynn and Amy M. Laswell; 11 grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren.

Calling will be 11 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 11th at Randall & Roberts Funeral Home, Logan Street Chapel, Noblesville, with memorial services immediately following.

From the Gamma Chapter Silver Anniversary Booklet:

Brother Laswell attended Bosse HS In Evansville under the direction of Claude B. Smith. At an early age he became an excellent French horn player which earned him a scholarship to the University of Miami for one year, after which he attended Indiana University. In 1941 his studies were interrupted when he entered the U.S. Army and was later commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. After almost five years of service he returned to IU, receiving his degree in August, 1946.

During his seven-year tenure at Noblesville he became active in the Indiana State Music Association, serving as Executive Secretary for five years. He became President of the Music Division of the Indiana State Teacher's Association. His Noblesville band placed First in the Indiana State Fair Marching Contest in 1955. Brother Laswell also developed a fine concert band and choir program. In 1953 he joined the Murat Temple Shrine Band and in 1956 became the director, a position he held for fifteen years. From 1955 to 1963 he developed an exceptional junior high band at Westlane Junior High School in MSD

Washington Twp., Indianapolis. He was the Secretary of Gamma Chapter in 1961 and President in 1962.

Since 1946 Brother Laswell had been active in the U.S. Army Reserves and National Guard program. In 1963 he was recalled to the Army in an administrative position, retiring in 1979 with the rank of Colonel. From 1980 until his death he resided in Port Charlotte, FL where he was active in two community bands. In the North Port Band he served as Director Emeritus and played French horn, trumpet, and percussion. With the Port Charlotte Band he as assistant director and librarian and filled in on horn, trumpet and percussion.