



HAL A. MEURER, 1925 - 2008

Hal A. Meurer, 83, of Franklin, and formerly of Terre Haute, passed away Sunday, Aug. 24, 2008. He was born May 3, 1925, in Terre Haute, to Robert and Helen Meurer. During World War II, Hal was a member of the U.S. Coast Guard Band from 1943 to 1945, playing numerous engagements in New York City. He was a vocal major at Indiana State University, and began his teaching career in Jasper, from 1949 to 1953. He was band director at Lincoln High School in Vincennes, from 1953 to 1963. In 1963–64, he was assistant director of the Purdue University marching band, and concert band director. From 1964 to 1973, he was director of the Ben Davis High School Band in Indianapolis. He also directed bands at Washington and Howe high schools in Indianapolis.

Hal served as president of the Indiana Bandmasters Association, and as president of Phi Beta Mu, a state honorary band directors association, and was inducted into the Hall of Fame for Indiana bandmasters in 1989. Bands and orchestras under his direction received more than 50 first division contest ratings. His marching bands placed first place at the Indiana State Fair Marching Band Contest five times. For 20 years, his bands never placed lower than fifth. The Ben Davis and Howe bands performed concerts and marching band competitions in seven European countries. The Ben Davis band won two first place prizes at the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland, in 1970. Hal's bands were honored to perform at Canadian Bandmasters Association, Music Educator National Conference, Mid East National Band Clinic and Indiana State Music Educators Conference.

The Vincennes band represented Indiana at the World Premiere of the "Music Man" movie in 1962, and performed at Soldier's Field at the Chicagoland Music Festival in 1958. Bands under Hal's direction have played for two U.S. presidents, marched in the Rose Bowl Parade, Orange Bowl Parade, Sugar Bowl Parade, Kentucky Derby Parade, Indianapolis 500 Parades, and the Kiwanis International Convention in Atlantic City, N.J., as well as, the New York World's Fair, and Expo '67 in Montreal, Canada. Hal was active in the American School Band Directors Association, serving as chairperson of the National Band Association, and was program

chairperson for the Indiana Music Educator Clinic. He also directed church choirs for several years in Vincennes and Speedway. He was a member of Tabernacle Christian Church.

He is survived by his wife, Gwendolyn A. Heady Meurer; daughters, Susan Jagers of Fort Wayne, and Mary Ledbetter of Vincennes; brothers, Robert Meurer of Indianapolis, and David Meurer of Colorado Springs; sister, Adena Rynerson of Lewisville; and three grandchildren, Andrew, Julia and Lisa. He was preceded in death by his parents; a brother, Henry Meurer; and sisters, Emma Hoover and Helen Turner.

The Rev. John Ely will conduct funeral services at 10 a.m. Thursday, in Wright Chapel of Franklin United Methodist Community, where friends may call after 9 a.m. Additional visitation will be held from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, in Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service, Vandivier-Tudor Chapel, 951 N. Main St., in Franklin. Graveside services are 2:30 p.m. Thursday at Oak Hill Cemetery in Riley.