



BILL E. SCHMALFELDT, 1927 - 2004

Indianapolis Star, Monday, November 1, 2004 and Beech Grove Daily Journal

Bill E. Schmalfeldt, 77, Beech Grove, died October 29, 2004. He was born June 19, 1927 to Walter G. and Norma (Reasoner) Schmalfeldt. He was married to Miranda Schmalfeldt for 26 years. She survives. Other survivors include five daughters, Andrea Summy, Angela Brown, Jennifer York, Sue Schmalfeldt, and Linda Jordan and eight grandchildren. He was preceded in death by a son, Bill E. Schmalfeldt, Jr.

He was a 1945 graduate of Southport High School. He graduated from Arthur Jordan Conservatory of Music. He received his BS degree from Butler University, MM from Indiana University, and an Honorary Doctorate from the University of Winnipeg, Canada.

Music was his life. He was the band, orchestra, and choral director at Southport High School for 27 years, and was the Music Supervisor of Perry Township schools. He organized and directed the Perry Township Elementary school festivals. He had also been the band and choral director at Middletown and Harrison Township High Schools. He led the first high school band to perform for the National Football League at Wrigley Field in Chicago on December 3, 1959. His band played twice for President Nixon and he had received a personal letter from the President complimenting him on his excellent performances. He sang for President Truman in Pittsburg in 1943.

Bill is a member of the Indiana Band Hall of Fame. He had been a committee member of the Indiana State Farm Marching Band Contest, head music judge for the Farmer's Day Parade at the Indiana State Fair, led the official band for the Hoosier 100 Road Course, and was the originator of the Girl's Precision Dance team.

He was the only President of the Indiana School Music Association (ISMA) to serve two terms. He served as a musical judge for Kentucky, Tennessee, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, and Winnipeg, Canada. He served as a guest conductor at numerous other state music festivals.

Bill was a celebrity for the Indianapolis 500 Festival Parade in 1946 where he was in charge of the Twirling Contest. He was also a Kentucky Colonel.

He was a Funeral Associate at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service from 1990-2004. He was a 50 year member of Southport Masonic Lodge #270 R. & A.M, and a member of the Scottish Rite. He was the Past President of the Johnson County Shrine Club. Bill was also head judge for the Knights of the Mystic Shrine and Imperial Session.

Bill had been choir director of Plainfield Christian Church, Southport Methodist Church, and Southport Baptist Church. He was also a soloist for the Christian Science Church.

He was a U.S. Navy Air Corps veteran and a member of American Legion Post #777. Bill raised and trained champion bird dogs and was an excellent marksman. He also loved fishing and had a green thumb in gardening and took great pride in growing fine vegetables.

Funeral services will take place on Tuesday, November 2, 2004 at 10:00am at Wilson St. Pierre Funeral Service, Singleton & Herr Southport Chapel.