



Robert R. Sharpe, 1920 - 2010

THE GOSHEN NEWS, *April 7, 2010*

GOSHEN — Robert R. Sharpe, 89, Rotonda West, Fla., died March 4 at his home. He and his wife, Annette, moved to Rotonda from Plymouth in 2000.

He was born July 13, 1920 in Columbia City, to Joe and Freda Decker Sharpe.

Throughout his life, Bob had a great appreciation and love of music. He graduated from Columbia City High School in 1939. As the result of his excellent trumpet playing, he won several state and national high school awards, which resulted in a full scholarship to Morehead State University, Morehead, Ky. He earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Morehead, where he was president of his sophomore class.

In 1942, Bob was drafted into the United States Army Air Corps and served three years in the 312th Bomb Group, nicknamed the Grim Reapers, a highly decorated unit. Bob's claim to fame was having an opportunity to play trumpet in Bob Hope's band when Hope toured various bases in New Guinea. Bob's specialty during the war was intelligence assessment. He would interpret bomber run photographs and interview crews to assess damage and to plan future missions.

After the war, he married Mary Josephine Robb in December 1945. She died in 1980.

Bob finished college in 1946 with a master's degree from Colorado State University and taught music at schools in Kentucky, Illinois and his hometown of Columbia City.

He was eventually promoted to music supervisor at Goshen High School, where he retired in 1982 after 35 years of teaching experience.

During his career, Bob was president of the Northern Indiana Music Contest Association; president of Goshen Teachers Association; selected for the Silver Band Master Association; president of Indiana Phi Beta Mu; president of Indiana Band Master Association; and a member of the American School Band Master Association. He was also elected to Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities.

He was a member of Rotonda American Legion Post 113, where he served on the board of directors. He was a life member of Rotonda Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 10476.

Although he was not an Indiana University graduate, he was a devoted follower of IU sports, rarely missing a game on radio or television.

He is survived by his wife, Annette Cox Sharpe, Rotonda West, Fla., whom he married March 26, 1981; daughters, Sandy (Dennis) Caparotta, Bradford, Pa., and Cathy (Bruce) Kurtz, Syracuse, Ind.; and sister, Jeanice (Norman) Graves, Columbia City, Ind.; five grandchildren, Amy (Tim) Swisher, Ryan (Stephanie) Kurtz, Angela (Joe) Shembada, Kim (Reid) Kallman and Kelly (Ryan) Pettit; five great-grandchildren, Rachel and Jacob Swisher, Brayden and Addison Kurtz and Abigail Pettit.

A celebration of life service will take place in Plymouth July 13 on what would have been Bob's 90th birthday. Details of the service are pending.

Another celebration of life service will take place in December at the American Legion Post 113, Rotonda, Fla., with interment at the Florida Veterans Administration National Cemetery, Sarasota, Fla.

Contributions in Bob's memory may be made to the Rotonda American Legion Post 113; the Englewood Fla. TideWell Hospice; the Marshall County, Ind. Humane Society or the Rotonda VFW Post 10476.