



Dr. Joseph Thomas Naumcheff

Joe Naumcheff was born in Fort Wayne, IN on August 10, 1927. At the age of four he began to take lessons on the cornet. When he graduated from high school he was recognized as the outstanding music student in his class. He was drafted into the armed services in 1945 and was assigned to the 421st Army Band, Bremerhaven, Germany. After his active military tour of duty he joined the 38th Infantry Division Band and was named the band commander in 1951, a post he held until his military retirement in 1966. When he retired the Military Department of Indiana granted him the Indiana National Guard Medal for meritorious service.

Dr. Naumcheff received his undergraduate degree in music in 1951 and his master's in 1959, both from Ball State University. He earned a doctorate from Indiana University in 1973. While attending Ball State he served as assistant band director for one year. Joe taught trumpet at Ball State for seven years. In 1963 he was recognized by Ball State University as its outstanding music alumnus. In 1962-62 he served as president of the Indiana State School Music Association.

Joe was a member of the Indianapolis Symphony in 1950-51 and a member of the Muncie Symphony Orchestra for sixteen years. He has performed with many Indiana large dance bands and numerous small combos. He presently is a member of a four-piece dance combo, The Directors.

Dr. Naumcheff served as a band director at Selma High School from 1951 to 1962 and as principal at Selma from 1962 to 1966. From 1966 to 1991 he was an administrator at Ball State, retiring as Director of Admissions. Upon his retirement from Ball State he was granted emeritus status for his exemplary performance.

Three music honorary fraternities selected Joe for membership: Phi Mu Alpha (undergraduate), Pi Kappa Lambda, (graduate) and Phi Beta Mu (professional). In 2002 he was inducted into the Indiana Bandmasters Hall of Fame by Gamma Chapter, Phi Beta Mu. He also has received the A. Garland Hardy award from educational fraternity Phi Delta Kappa for outstanding service to Ball State University, to the community, and to education.

The BSU chapter of the Golden Key Honor Society and the BSU Singers bestowed upon him honorary status for his distinguished service to Ball State students. The Disabled Students in Action Organization recognized him for helping to make the Ball State campus a place where a physical disability need not be a handicap. The Ball State Alumni Association gave him the "Benny" award for his long and extraordinary service to the Alumni Association. For his work with minority students he received the Certificate of Recognition from the Martin Luther King Community of Trinity Church, Muncie, IN. Upon his retirement the mayor of Muncie granted him the lifetime achievement award for service to the Muncie community and to Ball State.

In 1993 he helped organize the Greater Greenwood Community Band which he directed for three and a half years. For his work with the band the mayor of Greenwood and the VFW recognized him as Greenwood's outstanding citizen in 1996. Presently, he directs the internationally Acclaimed Baxter YMCA Choir and the Ball State University Alumni Trumpet Quartet. Joe and his wonderful wife Suzy share eight children, 18 grandchildren, and 4 great-grandchildren. Presently he enjoys playing his trumpet, giving seminars, composing popular music, judging music events, traveling, reading about European history, and playing poker.