



J. Donald Robertson

J. Donald Robertson was born in Fairfield, IL on August 6, 1936. When he was three years old his parents divorced and he was raised in the Southern Indiana community of Huntingburg, IN. Early in life he was greatly influenced by his grandmother's love of music and each week they would listen to radio broadcasts of "Cities Service Band of America" presentations. Don briefly played the piano before focusing on trumpet in band. He graduated from Huntingburg High School in 1954 and then earned a B.S. in Music Education at Indiana State University in 1958 and a Master's degree from ISU in 1966.

Following his student teaching at Tell City High School (with Hall of Fame member Paul Silke), Don was hired as Assistant Director for the Tell City schools (1958-62) where he met and married his wife, Linda in 1960.

Don was hired as Director of Bands at Scottsburg, 1962-74, where his marching band was widely successful both in field competition at the Indiana State Fair Marching Contest. His state fair bands were consistently in the top 25 of the 125 bands in competition while his field show bands were Grand Sweepstakes winners 3 years in a row and a feature band at the Orange Bowl Festival in 1969. The Scottsburg concert bands were consistent Division I recipients and his 1970 band was featured at the IMEA Convention. While at Scottsburg he was named Outstanding Young Educator and later one of the top 3 educators in the state by the Indiana Jaycees.

From 1974-82 Don returned to his hometown of Huntingburg and the newly consolidated Southridge High School where he again developed outstanding bands. His marching bands were sweepstakes winners 8 years in a row and his 1976 "Raider Band" won the ISSMA State Marching Championship in Class C. The 1979 'Raider Band' was featured in the Cotton Bowl Festival in Dallas. While at Southridge all of Don's bands, elementary through high school received Division I ratings in all ISSMA contests.

From 1982-1996 Don worked in the Columbus schools, first as Director of Bands at Columbus North (1982-88) and then (1988-96) as Director of Bands at Northside Middle School. Within 3 years at North High School he had turned a program in decline to a participant in the Peach Bowl in Atlanta and the Gimbel's Parade in Philadelphia. Again, his bands were at the top of their class in all ISSMA events.

Don Robertson was awarded the Phi Beta Mu Outstanding Bandmaster Award in 1995 and inducted into the Hall of Fame in 2005. He served four terms on the ISSMA board and held memberships in IMEA, NBA, ASBDA, IBA, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Phi Beta Mu, along with being a fifty year member of the Masonic Lodge, Scottish Rite, and Murat Shrine. Don has served as a brass instructor at several summer camps and has been a clinician and judge in Indiana, Illinois, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

Don and his wife Linda, a retired Registered Nurse, live in Columbus. They are the parents of two children, Jennifer and Tim, and the grandparents of five grandchildren and one great-grandson.