



Donald D. Litherland

Don Litherland was born February 8, 1944 in Gary, Indiana. He grew up in Merrillville Indiana where he was drum major of the Merrillville High School band for four years. He attended Ball State University receiving a B.S. in Music Education in 1966 and membership in Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia and Delta Chi Fraternities. His professional career includes band director at Randolph Southern, Wapahani and Brazil High Schools. He returned to Ball State in 1971 as Associate Director of Bands while earning his Master's Degree in 1972. He spent one year working towards a Doctor of Arts Degree in Conducting at Ball State before accepting the position of Director of Bands at Elkhart Memorial High School and Pierre Moran Junior High School in 1973. In 1974 he took over the position of Director of Orchestras as well.

The Memorial Instrumental Program under the direction of Mr. Litherland acquired numerous awards and achievements over the years including: The Grand Champion Award at the West Virginia Music Festival in both 1980 and 1983; 3rd place at the Virginia Beach Music Festival; featured concert performance at the American Association of School Administrators National Convention; and featured band at both Western Michigan University and Ball State University. During Mr. Litherland's career in Elkhart his bands and orchestras made eleven appearances at the ISSMA State Concert Finals and performed at IMEA Conventions. His marching band consistently earned First Division ratings finishing in the top five at ISSMA State Finals numerous times.

During his tenure in Elkhart he served as President of NISBOVA, three terms as President of the Elkhart Teacher's Association and five terms on the ISSMA Board of Directors. In 1979 Mr. Litherland was awarded the "Alumni Achievement Award" from Ball State University. Current professional memberships include the Indiana Music Educators Association, Music Educators National Conference, Phi Beta Mu, National Band Association, Indiana Bandmasters Association and the Indiana State School Music Association.

Since retirement in 2005 Mr. Litherland spends his time teaching low brass students in the Michiana area and is a frequent adjudicator and guest conductor. He has been a guest conductor at the Mid-America Music Camp, the Great Lake Music Camp as well as a number of Indiana high school and middle school concerts throughout Indiana. Over the past eight years, many of his private students have been selected for Indiana All-State Band, Orchestra and Jazz Band. Don and his wife Roberta were married in 1972, and worked together with the marching band and school musicals during their 32 year career at Elkhart Memorial High school.