



Frank D. Cofield, 1913 – 2005

Frank D. Cofield, 91, of Sioux Falls, SD passed away June 5, 2005 at Sioux Valley Hospital in Sioux Falls.

Mr. Cofield was born on December 25, 1913, in New Castle, IN, to Dr. J. Frank and Elizabeth (Van Osdol) Cofield. He grew up and graduated from high school in New Castle, received a Bachelor's Degree in Music from Indiana University in Bloomington, IN and a Master's Degree from George Peabody College at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, TN.

He married Naomi Emmert on June 7, 1940, in New Castle, IN. Naomi passed away June 8, 1988; he then married Violet Wisheart on June 20, 1992, in Louisville, KY. Violet passed away October 27, 2003.

Mr. Cofield had a music-filled career as an instrumental and choral music instructor and band director, guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator. He was also a trombonist-arranger in radio, recording, dance band and symphony. He served three years in the U.S. Navy during World War II.

He was associated with Hal Leonard Publishing Corp. in Winona, MN as a composer/arranger/editor from 1957 until his retirement in 1991. He has hundreds of published works for both concert and marching bands; many of these have been performed internationally.

Mr. Cofield was a member of the American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers (ASCAP), Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Fraternity, Phi Beta Mu International Bandmasters' Fraternity and a life-member of the Elks Lodge. He was a member of Central United Methodist Church in Winona, where he was a member of the choir, a lay leader, and served on the Board of Trustees and numerous other committees. He also served on the Board of Directors of the Margaret Simpson Home and for many years was a member of the Executive Committee of the Watkins Home.

Mr. Cofield is survived by his daughter Nancy Cofield Neeser and husband Tom, Sioux Falls, SD, stepdaughter Nancy (Doug) Blackburn, Jacksonville, FL, and grandchildren Aaron (Michaela) Neeser, Rian (Stephanie) Neeser, and Elizabeth Neeser. His first great-grandchild is due this October. Preceding him in death were his parents, a brother, a sister, and a son, Steven. He was a kind and loving husband,

father and grandfather, who will be dearly missed. Funeral Services will be held at 11:00am on Thursday, June 16, at Central United Methodist Church in Winona, MN, with burial following in Woodlawn Cemetery, Winona.