



Robert F O'Brien, 82

Tulsa World (OK) - Friday, July 4, 2003

Robert F. O'Brien, the director of Notre Dame's concert and marching bands for more than 30 years, died Tuesday in South Bend, Ind. He was 82.

O'Brien led the Irish bands from 1952 to 1986 and was credited with establishing many of the school's football day traditions, including the singing of "America the Beautiful" and the reciting of the Preamble of the Constitution during the pregame performance. He also composed the Victory Clog, a jig the Irish Guard performs after every touchdown.

O'Brien also broke the band's gender barrier in 1970 by allowing a female student from neighboring St. Mary's College.

O'Brien was a 1947 graduate of Southern Illinois University and received a master's degree from the University of Iowa. He was a Navy veteran of World War II.