



Harold A. "Hal" Hokenson

October 27, 1931 - May 7, 2013

Arizona - Harold A. (Hal) Hokenson, passed away on Tuesday, May 7, 2013 in Arizona.

Harold (Hal) was born on October 27, 1931 on the family farm of Algot and Hilda Hokenson, three miles south of Independence, Iowa. He was the third of four children. Harold attended a rural one-room school for the first eight years of his education. He then proceeded to high school in the Independence school system where he became interested in band.

Harold received a BA degree in music education from Coe College in Cedar Rapids, Iowa in June of 1953. That same day he received his commission as a 2nd Lt. in the USAF. Upon graduation he went on a three-year tour of active duty with the air Force and spent most of that time as an intercept controller based at Itazuke Air Force Base, Japan. Harold's first teaching job was in Hanover, Illinois where he met his wife, Phyllis Boldt. Phyllis and Hal were married on December 22, 1956.

From Hanover, he landed a wonderful job in Mineral Point, Wisconsin and had a successful 17-year career as a band director in that community. From Mineral Point, he and his family moved to Sterling, Illinois where he spent 25 years as the band director of the middle school band. Harold retired from public school teaching in 2000 and then took a postretirement job with the Newman Central Catholic High School where he re-started the band program that had been discontinued for several years. Harold finally retired entirely to the warm climate of Arizona in 2006 and lived there until the time of his death.

Hal is survived by his son, Eric (LeeAnn) and their children, Tristian and Taylor of Brookings, South Dakota; his daughter, Janel Huyett (Greg) and their daughters, Rachel and Bridget of Chandler, Arizona. He is also survived by one sister Esther Wetlaufer (Roger) of Tucson, Arizona. He was preceded in death by his parents, his wife Phyllis, one sister and one brother.

Funeral services will be held on Tuesday, May 14, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. at the GORGEN

FUNERAL HOME in Mineral Point, WI. Burial will be in Graceland Cemetery. Friends may call on Tuesday from 12:00 noon until time of service at the GORGEN FUNERAL HOME.

A Memorial Service will be held on Monday, May 13, 2013 at St. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH, 1701 16th Avenue, Sterling, Illinois beginning at 6:30 pm

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Hope Lutheran Church in Mineral Point.

Comments



“ Mr. Holkenson was one of my favorite teachers ever! I played Tenor Sax from 6th grade to my Junior year at SHS when we moved away.

He made us laugh. He encouraged me when I played with my arm in a cast & I'd get frustrated.

I'd go visit him at Challand occasionally & I'd smile when I'd see the Conductor Smurf given to him by myself & a few other students.

I'm always remember him fondly with a smile on his face & a twinkle in his eye.

Mary Tompkins Burns - October 29, 2018 at 04:00 AM



“ Hal was a kind, gentle soul who lived his life with grace and dignity. When I think of him, I think mostly of how very proud his was of all his children and grandchildren. He would simply beam over his daughter Janel's musical accomplishments. That smile, that pride...this is how I will remember Hal. Godspeed, Hal. We will miss you.

Maureen Hemstreet - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ I was a student of Hal's when he worked at Challand Middle School in Sterling, IL. I can remember the sadness people felt when he "retired" the first time around--those were some big shoes to fill! He was a mentor to many young people and he turned out many a fine musician over the years. My favorite memory of Hal is him conducting with such vigor during rehearsal that his baton would often leave his grasp to go flying toward the ceiling! Or occasionally the trumpets. :o)

Rebecca Saunders - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ I loved being in the band at Hanover, Hal was a very good and well liked teacher. I was in the same class as Phyllis Bolt [she was my classmate and friend. Some of us from the class came to her visitation --a very sad time that was. My Sympathy goes out to all of Hal's family. I do know how very hard it is as I've lost two grown daughters and my husband of 55years. Just take one day at a time!!! I was in the class 1955.
Kay [Mueller] Gengenbach

Kay [Mueller] Gengenbach - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ Hal was a very dedicated professional. I always enjoyed talking to him. Music was his passion and we are all better off for his sharing it with all of us!

Phil Hofreiter - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ I was in the class of 1955 with Phyllis (Boldt). Hal was my band and music teacher. When I attended Phyllis' funeral, he still remembered all of us. He was a good teacher and a very nice gentleman.

Phyllis (Mielke) Smithson - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ Sending thoughts and prayers to the Hokenson family. Hal was a wonderful band instructor at Newman Central Catholic High School. He brought back our band program and to new heights.

Janet Jarvis - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ Mr. Hokenson was my band teacher growing up. He always took his time to make us all great musicians. He is a person in my life that I will never forget. He was a great man and an even better teacher. Thank to Hal for all that you taught me through the years. God bless and may your memory live on forever.

Taylor Jiminez - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ Was honored/privileged to have Mr Hokenson as my band teacher at Challand Junior High from 1978-1980. I still remember when we played Variations on a Korean Folk Song. The best ever. You will truly be missed, Mr H. God bless you and your family. Nate Rodriguez-Tuba

Nathan Rodriguez - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ My condolences to your entire family. Mr Hokenson was a wonderful teacher and friend. He always had a smile and a willingness to help others.

Brenda Baither Greer - April 28, 2018 at 02:22 AM



“ Hal was a very special person who very much enjoyed playing music. He dedicated his life to teaching music to young people and treasured their success. His legacy lives on in the memories of his many students and their family members as witnessed by their entries recorded herein.

Hal's son Eric, daughter Janel, and her daughter Rachel, all joyously carry on his tradition of musical excellence.

Musical communication can entertain, inspire, motivate, sustain, and comfort us. Hal will be with each of us in our memories as long as we exist. We find that very comforting. Rest in peace dear friend.

with love,

Richard and Judy Huyett

Richard and Judy Huyett - January 12, 2013 at 12:00 AM