

GEORGE E. WALN

WALN, GEORGE ELBRIDGE, prominent musician and renowned educator, died January 31st at the age of 95 at Freedom Village Health Care Center, Lake Forest, California following a short illness. Mr. Waln was born in 1904 in Clarion, Iowa. Following his youthful years on a farm, his family moved to the city, Cedar Rapids, Iowa where he attended high school. He held college degrees from the University of Iowa and Northwestern University. He began his teaching career at the University of Illinois, after which he accepted a position at Oberlin College Conservatory of Music where he taught for 40 years influencing many of the talented woodwind players in the country. A number of his former students presently hold prestigious chairs in major orchestras and teaching positions in colleges and universities.

Following his retirement from Oberlin, he and his wife, Elsa, moved to California where for several years he taught at U.S.C. and Chapman College as Adjunct Distinguished Professor. Waln was editor of the Woodwind Column for the national "Instrumentalist Magazine" for 40 years. Sixty-six of his articles appear in the 1992 edition of the "Woodwind Anthology." From 1953 to 1955 he served as President of the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors. He was the recipient of a number of awards during his lifetime including the Distinguished Service Award for outstanding service to music in Ohio (1959) and the Edwin Franko Goldman Memorial Citation from the American Bandmasters Association (1986). He was a lifetime member of the Music Educators' National Conference and the National Association of College Wind and Percussion Instructors.

Mr. Waln was very active in the Saddleback Kiwanis Club with his special interest in working with the El Toro High School Keywanettes. He became a Kiwanis Fellow in 1998 and was awarded the highest award presented by Kiwanis International, the George F. Hixon Medal and plaque, for his distinguished service to youth.

George Waln is survived by a son, Ronald and wife Clara, a daughter, Donna, and husband Kenneth Monroe, five grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. A Memorial Service was held on Thursday, February 4th. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Kiwanis Foundation (Saddleback Club) or the music fund at the Genevia Presbyterian Church.