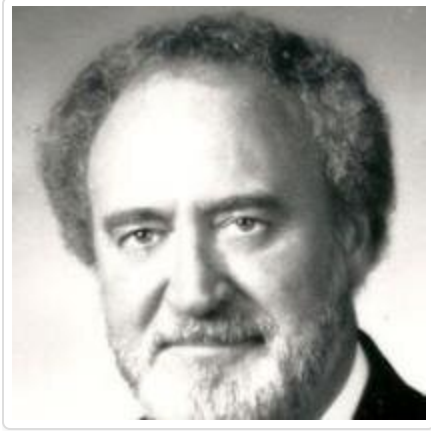




Robert Fleming

July 31, 1931 - December 25, 2011

Robert E. Fleming, 80, of Warren, died Sunday, December 25, 2011 at Hospice House in Poland, Ohio. He was born July 31, 1931 in Ashland, KY, the son of Claude E. Fleming and Stella Louise (Day) Fleming

Robert E. Fleming came to Warren in 1958 as the Director of Bands at Warren G. Harding High School. He proceeded to establish an outstanding band program that became the model for high school bands.

Mr. Fleming then became the Director of Bands at Youngstown State University. The Marching Band and Concert Bands immediately exhibited the visual excitement and outstanding musical qualities that had become his trademark.

After his retirement at YSU, Mr. Fleming became a Professor of Music and Director of Bands at Hiram College. His teaching excellence and commitment to concert bands continued as he developed a College-Community Concert Band that was exemplary in every respect.

Robert retired from the W.D. Packard Concert Band on July 25, 2004. He joined the Band in 1959 performing on the Trumpet and became co-conductor in 1983. He also has directed The Big Band Sound of Packard, The Packard Jazz Quintet and the Packard Dixieland Band.

The W.D. Packard Concert Band Executive Board and the Packard Park Board of Trustees have conferred upon Mr. Fleming the honorary designation of Conductor Laureate & Conductor Emeritus. In his honor, the Robert E. Fleming Concerto Competition has been established to present outstanding high school musicians as soloist with the W.D. Packard Concert Band and earn a scholarship for study at the college level.

Mr. Fleming also was instrumental in developing the "Top Notes" Orchestra in 1961.

Surviving are his wife; Shirley Ann Fleming of Warren, two sons; James Robert (Joanne) Fleming of Canfield, and Mark (Sherri) Fleming of Warren, granddaughter; Patricia (Thomas) Krewson, great grandson; Connor Krewson. and granddaughters Jennifer Martin and Jacquelyn Martin and great grandchildren, Chuck, Cassie, and Tiana.

Friends may call on Thursday, December 29, 2011 from 4 PM to 7PM at the McFarland & Son Funeral Home. A private family graveside burial will be held at Rose Hill Burial Park, Ashland, KY, with Rev. Harvey officiating. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to: American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org and Hospice House, 9803 Sharrot Road Poland, OH 44514

Arrangements are entrusted to McFarland & Son Funeral Services Co., 271 N. Park Ave., Warren, Ohio 44481. Please visit www.mcfarlandcares.com to view this obituary and send condolences.

Tribute Wall

JO

“ The most vivid memories that I have of high school are of Mr. Fleming as our inspirational band director for the WGH marching and concert bands '66-'68. There are no words to express the influence and impact Mr. Fleming had on our lives during that time. My uncle George Garstick, as manager of the Packard Band, knew him well, too. My deepest condolences to the Fleming family, and may your memories of happy times together comfort you in the days and years ahead. Joyce Ormsby, WGH 1969

Joyce Ormsby - March 29, 2013 at 12:47 PM

SP

“ When I was 5 years old, I watched excitedly as the new neighbors took their belongings and furniture off the truck, and moved in next door. My mother told me to wait a day or two to let the Flemings settle in, but I could hardly contain myself for long. New neighbors and I'd heard the father played the trumpet! Knowing Bob Fleming influenced me in such a way that I took up the flute. When I saw him in his back yard I made a special point to direct my tweets his way. He was always very encouraging altho it must have been bad playing in the beginning. He was a fine and decent man who wanted things done correctly which is how he attained such great things in the world. "Bob" was an excellent musician, a friend, and a patient and long-suffering neighbor. The world has been a better place because he was here. My sincerest sympathy to the family.

Sandi Stark Palazzo - March 29, 2013 at 12:47 PM

LH

“ I want to pass on my condolences to Bob's family. Please know that you all will be in our thoughts and prayers during this sad time.

Bob was a wonderful friend and mentor to me as I began my college teaching career at YSU. As you can imagine, Bob left big shoes to fill. However, he was always very kind and gracious in his encouragement to me as I learned how to become a college band director. I will forever be touched by his high musical standards and his humanity.

May God bless your family,

*Les Hicken
Greenville, SC*

Les Hicken - March 29, 2013 at 12:47 PM

KR

“ My prayers are with you at this time of loss. Mr. Fleming (here I am....62 years old & I cannot call him anything other than Mr. Fleming) was an inspiration to me. I have been an instrumental teacher for 33 years...loved every minute of it. A large portion of my enjoyment was because he had such a passion for music himself. He was my mentor, my role model, and my friend. I will miss him. Rest in peace, sir

Kirby Reese - March 29, 2013 at 12:47 PM

CB

“ I still like to tell the story how our marching band became famous after performing a half time show under the lights at Soldier's Field in Chicago IL viewed by millions across the USA in 1964. We dazzled them with flashing brass,exciting music,pinwheels,fastbrakes, and an 80 yard long high kicking chorus line. What a thrill to be there! Mr. Fleming was my concert band director at YSU,also. How sad a talented teacher and musician must leave us, but we have great memories to share.

Carol Ormsby Baxter - March 29, 2013 at 12:47 PM

RT

“ Mr. Fleming will always be remembered for the great influence and impact on our lives as musicians! My husband Rob and I were "lucky" to be a part of the years he directed the WYSU Wind Ensemble and for all that we learned and musically and professionally from his example.

On a personal note, I have Mr. Bob Fleming to thank for having met my husband of almost 30 years, Rob Thomas. Fleming conducted the 1977 Maryland All-State Band, of which Rob was the Euphonium soloist. Fleming talked with Rob and asked him if he had heard of Youngstown State,... to which Rob replied "no". Fleming encouraged Rob to come out and take a look and to meet their Trombone Prof Vern Kagarice. I was already a student at the The Dana School as a piano/ french horn major and ... the rest is history!

To Mr. Fleming's family, he was a really honorable man, whose legacy is far reaching, for the gift of music that he shared grows deep in the hearts of all who knew him!!

Peace to you,
Karen (Kosiba) & Rob Thomas

Robert & Karen Thomas - March 29, 2013 at 12:47 PM

KS

“ Bob was so very special. I lack the words to describe how much I appreciated all that Mr. Fleming did for me. He gave me guidance and friendship and I have appreciated him all my life. Do you boys remember that I used to babysit you? Both your parents mean a lot to me. My thoughts and prayers are with all of you. The world is an emptier place without Bob.

Kathy Clark Snowball - March 29, 2013 at 12:47 PM

RB

“ Robert E. Fleming had a profound and positive influence on my life. As a student at YSU, I must admit I found him a little intimidating at first. But soon I became aware of his vast knowledge and sincere passion for music and the education of the students in his charge. I continue to admire him greatly as a musician, conductor, educator and man and I have patterned much of my own approach to my students and teaching style as I reflect on his mannerisms, expressions and antidotes. In my thirty-five years as an educator and professional musician, there have been countless times I have recalled his remarks and comments.

I was fortunate enough to have known Bob as a colleague as we performed together as members of the Youngstown Symphony and Packard Band. He continued to be very complimentary about my performance and, as always, encouraged me to strive for still greater success. His personal commitment to excellence was truly impressive. He was tenacious in every aspect of his life and would never settle for mediocrity.

Perhaps most of all, my wife Arlene and I consider ourselves truly blessed to have had Bob as a friend. It was always a delight to speak to him. It has been an honor and privilege to have had Bob Fleming in our lives. His legacy will continue to guide and influence us in countless ways.

*Robert J. Barnett
YSU Class of 1977
Director Of Bands, West Branch High School
Principal Timpanist, Youngstown Symphony Orchestra and W.D.
Packard Band*

Robert J. Barnett - March 29, 2013 at 12:47 PM