

Wilkes Bobbitt – 2011



Wilkes Bobbitt was an Orangeburg, South Carolina native before moving to East Tennessee where he received a Bachelor of Science degree in Musical and Liberal Arts from East Tennessee State University in Johnson City, Tennessee. Hefounded the Unicoi County High School Band in Erwin, Tennessee where he was band director for several years. During his directorship there, he arranged for the band to travel to Memphis by train, where they competed in the West Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association Concert Festival and received a superior rating. Mr. Bobbitt became the Director of Bands at East Tennessee State University in 1959 where he completed his directorship in 1971.

He was a founding member of the East Tennessee School Band and Orchestra Association which was founded in 1938 by Mr. Bobbitt and four other gentlemen, M. E. Butterfield, Hollis Cross, O'Dell Willis and Marvin Lindley. Mr. Bobbitt was the second president of that Association in 1940-41. He also served a second term as President in 1954-55. He was also a founding member of the American School Band and Orchestra Association.

Mr. Bobbitt was a World War II Army veteran, having received the American Theater Service Ribbon, Good Conduct Medal and the World War II Victory Medal. He was a member and former Choir Director of Our Savior Lutheran Church in Johnson City. Mr. Bobbitt passed away at the Johnson City Medical Center Sunday, October 13, 1996 at the age of 85.