

## Jack D. Connell - 2007



**Jack D. Connell** (*October 20, 1924 - February 16, 1994*). Born in Alabama and attended Glencoe High School in Gadsden, Alabama, where as a student started the school band program under the supervision of Dr. Mort Glosser, Director of Bands at Gadsden High School.

From 1943 - 1945 Connell served in the United States Army fighting in the European Theater. After his service to his country, he completed his BS degree in Music Education at Jacksonville State Teachers College in Jacksonville, Alabama.

Mr. Connell began his teaching career in 1950 with the Maryville Tennessee City School System, where his bands were consistently rated superior in all phases of musical performance. In 1963 he was selected as the Supervisor of Instrumental Music for the Knoxville City School System. He served in this position until 1987, and during his tenure he promoted Knoxville bands to a nationally recognized level of excellence.

His advanced degrees included a Masters degree from the University of Tennessee at Knoxville and an Honorary Doctorate from the Mexico City Conservatory of Music, Mexico. He was a member of NBA, M.E.N.C., and E.T.S.B.&O.A. and was a member of Phi Beta Mu, a national fraternity for outstanding bandmasters.

Mr. Connell was in demand as a clinician and adjudicator in Mexico, Europe, and throughout the United States. He and his wife, Nelle Thomas Connell, were the parents of three children: William Jackson, Kimberly Connell Hill, and Mark Thomas. Mr. Connell's influence was instrumental in the development of band programs in the eastern part of Tennessee and his love for band and band music was legendary.