

## ***Gladys Stone Wright***



*Gladys Stone Wright founding president of Women Band Directors International in 1967, was born in Wasco, Oregon. She graduated from Lebanon High School in Lebanon, Oregon before attending the University of Oregon where she received both her bachelor and masters degrees. In 1953, she was married to Dr. Al G Wright.*

*She has 36 years of teaching at the high school level-Elmira Union High School in Elmira, Oregon (1948-53), Otterbein High School in Otterbein, Indiana (1954-61), Klondike High School in West Lafayette, Indiana (1963-70), and William Henry Harrison High School in West Lafayette, Indiana (1970-84). Her bands performed in several music education conferences including the Midwest Clinic in 1960. Her bands were known for their traveling tours throughout the United States, Mexico, Canada, and Europe. In 1975, her Harrison Band won the Gold Medal at the World Music Contest in Kerkrade, Holland.*

*Mrs. Wright has received numerous awards and honors throughout her career. In 1959, she was the third woman to be elected to the American Band Directors Association. In 1970, she received the "Citation of Excellence" from the National Band Association. In 1971, she was awarded the Tau Beta Sigma National Service to Music Award, and in 1973, she was the first woman to receive National Honorary Membership to Phi Beta Mu. She received the Silver Baton Award from WBDNA in 1974. In 1988, she was the first woman to receive the Sudler Order of Merit from the Sousa Foundation. In 1990, she received the International Golden Rose Award from Women Band Directors International. In 1995, she was the first living conductor to be inducted into the International Women Conductors Hall of Fame. She was also the first woman to be inducted into the National Band Association Hall of Fame and the first living woman to be inducted into the Woman Band Directors International's Hall of Fame. In 1984, she founded the Woman Conductor Magazine for WBDI and served as executive secretary for the organization for many years.*

*She currently serves as President of the International Band Tours. Along with her husband Al, she has conducted some 31 consecutive tours of Europe and England. Included in these concert tours were two performances at WASBE in Belgium and England. For 13 years she also conducted band tours of Central America during which time she received the Key of the City of Taxco, Mexico.*

*Mrs. Wright serves on the Executive Board of the John Phillip Sousa Foundation. She chairs the Sudler Flag and Cup projects as well as the Sudler Golden Medal from the Sousa Foundation.*

*Gladys and her husband Al were awarded the Phi Beta Mu International Award for Service to Music. In 2000, she was inducted in the Honorary Northwest Band Directors Association. In 2001, she was selected as one of the top University of Oregon representatives in 125 years to have a major impact throughout the world. In 2009, she is honored with the Medal of Honor from the Midwest International Band Clinic.*

*Mrs. Wright has served actively as an adjudicator, Conductor, and clinician throughout her career. She has had numerous articles published plus a limited number of compositions.*

*"Excellence can be achieved with limited enrollments ". Enrollments in her schools were Elmira-220, Otterbein-97, Klondike-310 and the largest, Harrison -850. Mrs. Wright believes:*

***"It isn't where you are that counts, but what you do while you are there that makes the difference".***

*She has proven this with fine band programs developed in each of her job locations.*