

Bob Nygaard



Robert (Bob) S. Nygaard was born September 29, 1933 to Elmer and Margorie Nygaard in Hot Springs South Dakota and passed away Dec. 27, 2009.

He graduated from Hot Springs High School in 1951 and enrolled in Chadron State College, Chadron, Nebraska as a Music Major. While a student at Chadron, Bob met and married Marian Haslow of Gordon, Nebraska in 1954.

Bob earned his bachelor degree from Chadron State in 1955 and his masters in 1966, going on to receive many prestigious awards, both personally and with his performing organizations. Some of the above include: The "National High School Band Directors Hall of Fame" in 1992, the "Chadron State Distinguished Service Award" in 1994 and the "Chadron State Music Hall of Fame" in 2005, also in 2005 he received a lifetime membership in "The High School Band Directors National Association". Bob began his teaching career at Minatare, Nebraska (4 years) and six years at Gordon, Nebraska.

While in Gordon his band represented Nebraska at the world premier of the motion picture "The Music Man" in Mason City, Iowa. He also helped produce the "Pageant of the Plains" for the diamond jubilee celebration in Gordon in 1960. He was also the director for the musicals "Annie Get Your Gun", "My Fair Lady", and the "Music Man".

His Masters Thesis, written at the suggestions of Governor Frank Morrison, was an original musical comedy "Buckskin Bride", that he wrote, directed and produced at Chadron State. "Buckskin Bride" was named an official production of the 1967 Nebraska Centennial celebration and produced throughout the state during that year.

Nygaard moved to John F. Kennedy High School in Barstow, California in 1966. During this eleven years there he was the first recipient of the school's outstanding service award, which was named in his honor. He also wrote the schools' "Alma Mater" and "Flight Song" and designed the school's first band uniforms. The band was invited to perform in the Fiesta Bowl Parade at a rally for Robert F. Kennedy, and for an election rally for Richard Nixon.

In 1977 Nygaard moved to Apple Valley, California where his "Sun Devil Bands" won more than 100 sweepstake awards in field and street competition. His bands performed at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles in 1984, the World Series in 1988 and frequently at Disneyland and the internationally televised "Hollywood Christmas Parade".

Over the years, other invitations to perform were received from the Los Angeles Rams, California Angels, Magic Mountain, Knotts Berry Farm, also many times for the Los Angeles Dodgers, as well as a rally for Ronald Reagan.

Bob's wife Marian preceded him to her heavenly home. Bob and Marian are succeeded by three sons - Scott, his wife Karen and daughter Veronica; Tom, his wife Renee and children Dereck and Charleigh; Mark, his wife Aileen and children Sara and Johnny.

The Nygaards only daughter is Jaynie Qualls, married to Doug Qualls and their two children: Amy, husband Shaughn Rice and son Conor; Rob and his wife Michelle and son Nolan.

A public viewing will be held at 9 a.m. Jan. 6 at Sunset Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary, followed by a noon memorial service and reception at Jess Ranch Community Church.

Sunset Hills Memorial Park and Mortuary is handling the arrangements.