



Edgar L. Wallace

April 7, 2011

Edgar L. Wallace, 90, of Lititz died Saturday, April 2, 2011 at Moravian Manor in Lititz. He was born in Philadelphia, PA to the late Harry Clayton and Velma Morrison Wallace. He was the husband of Eleanor Gilbert Wallace with whom he shared 63 years of marriage.

During his career he served as the Choral Music Director at both Collingswood H.S. and Westfield HS. in New Jersey, and retired in 1980. He served as Director of Choral Music and organist at St. Asaph's Episcopal Church, Bala Cynwyd from 1945-1964. He graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a Masters Degree in Music Education in 1950. He attended St. Peters Choir School and graduated from Haverford High School in 1938. He continued his advanced Music education at Temple University, St. Olaf College, Julliard School in NYC and Chautauqua Institute in NY.

Edgar was a Staff Sergeant of the United States Air Force during World War II. He was a member of American Guild of Organists and St. James Episcopal Church. At church he served as a Eucharistic Minister and volunteered in the Anchorage Breakfast Program. He volunteered at Lancaster General Hospital and attended the Music Educators National Conference (MENC). Edgar shared his love of music by directing the Men's Glee Club of Westfield, NJ for over 20 years as well as conducting the Men's Alumni Choral Group at F&M College from 1995-2006. Edgar enjoyed golf and owned an Antique Business.

In addition to his wife, Eleanor, he is survived by his daughter; Deborah Turley (Robert) of Williamsville, NY; and a son; Brent Wallace (Hallie) Folsom, CA, 6 grandchildren, and 1 great-grandchild.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a Funeral Service at St. James Episcopal Church, 119 North Duke Street, Lancaster on Saturday, April 30, 2011 at 2:00 p.m. The family will greet friends from 1:00 p.m. until the time of the service. Interment will be at St. James Memorial Garden. In lieu of flowers, Memorial contributions in Ed's memory may be made to St. James Episcopal Church towards The Seminary Fund, 119 N. Duke Street, Lancaster, PA 17602.

Tribute Wall

AG

“ Brent, I'm sorry for the loss of your Dad. It has been a lifetime since I (and you) were under his exquisite direction as part of the WHS choir, Glee Club, Twelve&Thirteen and, the highlight of the choir with which we traveled to Romania. Mr. Wallace was without a doubt one of the most formative individuals I had the privilege to have in my young life. I think about him and singing for him often. I hope you are well, and that you remember who the hell I am. Andy Gleeman davglee@optonline.net ”

andy gleeman - February 12, 2025 at 12:29 PM



“ Edgar L. Wallace ”

October 22, 2023 at 11:34 PM

BD

“ My Wallace would always say, "Music is a time art. It exist only in time". I still say that to this day and it reminds me of him every time I say it. What a beautiful man. ”

Bruce Daugherty - April 10, 2020 at 11:10 AM

BA

“ I was reminded of Mr. Wallace by my Westfield High Class of 1979 Reunion Facebook page. I did not know that he passed away. Please accept my late condolences. He and I had an interesting relationship...we got along fairly well but I was definitely not his favorite student; yet, he think he realized how moved I was by music. He used to bang a chord on the piano and ask the class..."major or minor?" Loved that game. I was good at it. Myself and fellow WHS graduates Don Dazzo, Bill Siegel and Dan Paola formed a band called Whirling Dervishes that received a big music publishing deal from Herb Alpert's publishing company and one of our albums was distributed by Universal. We got to The Show and had our cup of coffee! And I've since worked for Universal and Sony Music selling others music, gladly. So Mr. Wallace, it really has been all about the music for me and others at Westfield High, more than you might have thought perhaps. Thank you Mr. Wallace for your help with that. Rest in peace, sir.

Bob Ardrey - June 01, 2018 at 07:36 PM

AK

“ In My WSHS experience in Glee Club, Mr. Wallace was instructive, supportive, firm and straight; when you sang flat, he said "you're flat." I remember him and a pipe, and he seemed happy at times.

Alan Kelly - February 12, 2013 at 10:45 AM

DW

“ My last two years at Westfield Senior High School (1964-66) were special because of Mr. Wallace. I sang under him in the girls' choruses and choir. He had high expectations of his singers and challenged us with music that most high school groups would not have performed. He was such a gentleman and always wore a suit to school. I will not forget him.

Dianne Taylor Whittaker - April 20, 2011 at 12:20 AM

KW

“ Brent, we are sad to read in the Westfield Leader about your Dads death. We have good memories of you when you painted our house on North Chestnut St and your friendship with our daughter Sandy. And what a small world. Almost 22 years ago we purchased our house here on South Scotch Plains Ave in Westfield, NJ from Edgar and Eleanor and we still live here.
Our thoughts and prayers go out to the entire family.
Ken and Terry Wooster

Ken and Terry Wooster - April 18, 2011 at 03:19 AM

EN

“ To the family of Edgar Wallace,

I was very saddened to learn of the recent death of our beloved Mr. Wallace. When I was a student at Collingswood High School, he was one of my favorite and most admired teachers. He was such a wonderful, likable person. I shall always remember him with a great deal of fondness.

Your many fond memories of him will be a great source of comfort to all of you. My understanding thoughts of sympathy are with you during this difficult time.

Ethel M. Fox Neibauer - April 17, 2011 at 04:11 AM

MS

“ Dear Mrs Wallace and the entire Wallace family:

My thoughts and prayers are with you all. Mr Wallace was the best choral teacher I ever had - at any school. Our trip to Denmark has remained a cherished memory. In addition to instilling a life long love of music, he has been my idea of what a true gentleman is. Always beautifully dressed and always so professional in dealing with every member of the chorus. Mr Wallace spoiled me -- I was never able to find another choral director that I admired as much. I am sure the heavenly chorus has been warmed up and is singing as never before.

All my love to you

Maura McDermott Shea

Maura McDermott Shea - April 15, 2011 at 11:02 AM

MD

“ *I was fortunate to have Mr. Wallace in my life at Collingswood High School (1962-1964) and was in the last senior class (ACapella Choir & Ensemble-'64) before his departure to Westfield High School. Mr. Wallace was an exceptional teacher, encouraging us to surpass our own expectations! Those hands with which he led and directed, mesmerized us as we perfected our choir performances and learned finesse in music. For so many, he was the inspiration to continue our love of music. Thank you, Mr. Wallace, for keeping me singing throughout my life. You will forever be in my heart.*

My sincere condolences-

Marjorie (Midge) Ledyard Divis

Marjorie Ledyard Divis - April 14, 2011 at 09:37 PM

MA

“ I worked with Ed and Eleanor for years as a volunteer at our LGH outpatient facility. We recently celebrated his 90th birthday with he and Eleanor, also and always admired their love and commitment to volunteering here. Ed would not let a single soul get past his desk, i loved to tease him and make him laugh. We sure will miss him and are so very thankful for the time we did get to know him and share some good laughs! Rest in peace Ed, and thank you again for all the ways that you touched so many lives and the patients and staff you served over the years here.

Marlene - April 14, 2011 at 08:45 PM

KB

“ I am sad to hear of the passing of Mr. Wallace. I was privileged to sing in his 1959 and 1960 choirs and the 1960 ensemble at Collingswood High School. I always admired him as a teacher and a person. Mrs. Wallace helped the ensemble with a skit for the 1960 spring concert. I am sure that the entire ensemble came to love Mrs. Wallace during that brief period.

It was a joy to know you both.

Some may wish to hear the 1958, 1959 and 1960 choirs from Collingswood high School at:

<http://kennethbusch.tripod.com/1960> Mr Wallace could get the very best from his students.

Kenneth Busch - April 13, 2011 at 09:31 AM

EB

“ *To the Wallace Family--*

I graduated from Westfield High School in 1974 and sang for Mr. Wallace in girl's chorus, choir, All-State, Choraliers, and the Chorale, which toured Poland in the summer of 1974. I am a music teacher today in large part because of the wonderful experiences I had participating in these groups. Mr. Wallace was not only a gifted musician, but an inspiration to many young singers along the way. The pieces we performed were far beyond the scope of most high school choirs; I have sung many (e.g. Bernstein's Chichester Psalms) with professional grade choruses in the many years since high school. I have gotten out the old LP recordings and am impressed at the quality of performance we gave as a high school ensemble. And we gave such performances because he demanded it. He pushed us beyond ordinary levels and we performed because we knew we could accomplish the goal because Mr. Wallace knew we could. He was a great educator and wonderful role model for me and the many others he inspired to pursue a career in music. He will be greatly missed. My condolences to your family. Find hope in the heavenly reunion to come. What music there will be then!

Ellen (Baeder) Brda - April 12, 2011 at 11:15 AM

AM

“ *To Mrs. Wallace, Debbie, Brent and the entire family,*

What fond memories I have of Mr. Wallace and the lessons he taught me about music and the experiences he gave me as a high school student at Westfield High! I can never thank him enough. What a pleasure it was knowing him and growing up in Westfield with you all at St. Paul's. All my best to you during this difficult time. Kind Regards, Al Morasso.

Al Morasso - April 12, 2011 at 05:00 AM

BR

“ Dear Mrs. Wallace -
It was a privilege to have been taught by Mr. Wallace. I graduated from Collingswood in 1963. He was my choir director and music teacher - but he was so much more than that. He instilled in me discipline, patience, and a desire to both succeed and excel. Our choirs were excellent, thanks to his leadership and direction, and I considered it an honor to have been in his a capella choirs. Whenever I am with graduates the discussion always extends to participation in choir, and the wonderful memories everyone has always had of Mr. Wallace. He was quite probably my most inspirational teacher. I thank you and him for the wonderfully positive impact he made on mine, and so many other lives - we were all blessed to have known him.
God bless you all - he and your family will be in my thoughts and prayers.
Bob Rogers

Bob Rogers - April 12, 2011 at 04:12 AM

PO

“ We retired music educators in NJ are sorry to hear of our colleague's passing. He was obviously much loved by his students. I would like you to know that if you have old Region and Allstate programs, recordings, or pictures you would like to donate to our NJMEA State Historian where they will be preserved, I would be happy to assist you. You can reach me at osterpaul@hotmail.com. Mr. Wallace's obituary will be reprinted in TEMPO, the state music education magazine. We extend our sincere sympathy to you at this difficult time.
Paul Oster, President
New Jersey Retired Music Educators Association

Paul Oster - April 12, 2011 at 03:30 AM

PC

“ Dear Mrs. Wallace and family,
We graduated from Collingswood High School in 1952. It was Mr. Wallace's first year at Collingswood. We just loved Mr. Wallace. It was hard for us because Miss Huey had been at Colls for a long time and we loved her. But, Mr. Wallace won our hearts quickly. We extend our sincere sympathy to all of you.

Sincerely,

Peggy Gifford Crook

Carol Miller Shropsire

Charles "Bud" Shropshire

Peggy Gifford Crook - April 12, 2011 at 12:02 AM

CS

“ I was fortunate enough to be in the choir at Collinswood High School and St. Mary's Episcopal Church under the direction of Mr. Wallace. Not many of us remember our teachers with such fond memories as I have of Mr. Wallace. Although many years of gone by since those days, he will always be remembered with love and gratitude for the man that he was. Condolences to your entire family and I wish you all the wonderful memories of such a grand man.

Carol Scott - April 11, 2011 at 11:56 PM

TR

“ Dear Mrs. Wallace,

I graduated from Collingswood in 1962 and came to the school as a sophomore after graduating from Oaklyn Jr. High. I was in Mr. Wallace's glee club as a 10th grader, made it into the Acapella Choir in 11th grade and into the ensemble as a senior.

Mr. Wallace was a great musician and a fine person. As a choral director he was professional, meticulous, demanding and caring. He would accept nothing less than the best. He, appropriately, tolerated no nonsense. He made his signers memorize their music. Because of the training I received under his direction, I was able to audition for and be accepted into the Rutgers Glee Club. Although I received a fine education at Rutgers, singing in the Glee Club was the highlight of my college years. Making it into the Glee Club would not have been possible without having first sung under Mr. Wallace. All these years later, I remain grateful for the privilege of singing and learning under his direction.

Thank you for sharing him with me and with so many others over the years. You have my deepest sympathy.

Ted Robb

Ted Robb - April 11, 2011 at 11:06 PM

JR

“ Condolences to you and your family, Brent.

Janice Ruth

Janice Ruth - April 11, 2011 at 10:45 PM

MS

“ *Our condolences to you and your family, Aunt Eleanor.*

*Love,
Michael (Bonnie's son), Carrie, Preston, & Noah.*

Michael Slonina - April 11, 2011 at 08:11 PM

MF

“ *Thank you for everything that you taught us Mr. Wallace. The trip to Denmark was a once in a lifetime experience for me. I have very fond memories of you.*

M. Ferguson - April 11, 2011 at 02:19 PM

MT

“ *I am one of many who were fortunate enough to sing and accompany under Mr. Wallace's direction at Westfield High School in the mid-1970's. His teaching, inspiration and mentorship led to my chosen future as a conductor. Indeed, just this past December I conducted Pinkham's Christmas Cantata, which I first sang under Mr. Wallace's direction. I will always be grateful for the faith he showed in me and in my musicianship, and for the many opportunities he gave me. It was he who first recommended that I study at Tanglewood, a pivotal experience in my musical development.*

Michael Turner - April 11, 2011 at 10:30 AM

DH

“ *Mr. Wallace was my High School music teacher in Collingswood from 1962-1964. He was the kind of teacher that cared about his students and always wanted us to do our best. I have many fond memories of visits to his home. He always made us feel welcome. I went on to be a teacher for 38 years and have him to thank for being such a good roll model. He is now singing with the heavenly choir. God be with you all during this difficult time.*

Debbie Hales - April 11, 2011 at 05:26 AM