

Obituary – Kent Campbell

Kent Campbell, 80, died May 11, 2011, at his home.

Dr. Campbell was Director of Bands and Professor of Music at Western Kentucky University from 1971 until his retirement in 1993. Prior to that, he taught at Bradley University in Peoria, Illinois, and at the University of Southern Maine in Gorham, Maine.

A native of Elizabethton, Tennessee, he graduated from the University of Kentucky and received graduate degrees from the University of Illinois. While serving in the military, he was a member of the Third Army Band, stationed at Ft. McPherson in Atlanta, Georgia. His first teaching jobs were as band director in Henderson, Kentucky, and at Eastern High School in Jefferson County.

He served two years as President of the Kentucky Music Educators Association and received awards as Collegiate Teacher of the Year in Music and the Distinguished Service Award.

He belonged to the Bowling Green Elks Association and served as Exalted Ruler. He also served as President of the Kentucky Elks Association.

Upon retirement, he became a member of the Bowling Green Rose Society serving two terms as president. He was a member of the Board of Directors of the American Rose Society and served as District Director of the rose societies in Kentucky, Tennessee, and Eastern Arkansas for six years. Not only did he exhibit roses but he also served as a Judge of rose shows and as a Consulting Rosarian. He was named Outstanding Consulting Rosarian of the Year, Outstanding Judge of the Year, and also received the Bronze Medal from the local society.

He was a Kentucky Colonel and a member of Delta Chi and Phi Mu Alpha.

Dr. Campbell was preceded in death by his parents, Sam and Eula Campbell. He is survived by his wife, Claire, his daughter and son-in-law, Karen and Larry Long, his son Keith, two granddaughters and one great-granddaughter.

He was a member of Christ Episcopal Church where the memorial service will take place. Internment will follow at Fairview Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to the Kent Campbell scholarship fund at College Heights, Western Kentucky University, Christ Episcopal Church, or the American Rose Society.