



USAF RETIRED BAND DIRECTORS SOCIETY

October 12, 1983

TAPS

I have just received a letter confirming that William D. Berky died on 1 July 1983. He died of a massive heart attack.

I received this from his daughter JoEllyn Berky Beck who lives in Wayne, Pennsylvania; she also informed me that her mother had died in May 82.

During his military service he was Commander/Director of Air Force Bands at 8th Air Force in Korea and Oklahoma; Patrick AFB, FL; Mitchell Field, NY; Hickam AFB, HI; Lowrey AFB, CO; and Westover AFB, MA. Throughout all the different assignments, in addition to working with his band, Bill organized vocal "Afee Clubs" - often using his wife as piano accompanist.

After retirement, the family moved to Canandaigua, NY where he continued teaching music in the High School at Victor, NY. He also was director of the church choir in Canandaigua.

He retired from teaching and worked in a music store selling instruments to various schools in the district. He also played French Horn in the Finger Lakes Orchestra.

When he and his wife moved to Brevard, NC; he continued playing horn in the various area symphonies. He became choir director of the St Timothy's Methodist Church and the Brevard Men's Glee Club.

After his wife passed away, he immersed himself in Music and working at H&R Block. He also met a wonderful woman to whom he was to marry on July 24th.

Left behind, missing him terribly are 5 children - Bob, a mime; Doug, a mime; David, a therapeutic recreation worker; Bruce, a student at Ithaca College - saxophone major; and JoEllyn, a Music Therapist. He also was proud of his granddaughter, Kristen J. Beck.

I know we all share the sorrow with Bill's family. Those of us who served with him miss him too, as his professional expertise will live forever.

Lou Kriebel
Field Rep