



Henry “Hank” Fabienne Charbonneau lived a full and happy life with his beloved wife Margaret Conrad (Mardy), for 65 years. She and other family members were at his side as he passed on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007, from complications due to cancer, at the age of 93.

Henry was born in Washburn, WI, on Jan 3, 1914, to Rose Bourgo and Henry Charbonneau. He was one of six children and lived in Washburn until 1927. At age nine he played his first trombone solo under the direction of Ted Mesang and found the second love of his life, music. The family later moved to Superior, WI where Henry played in school and dance bands; and while in high school, played in the university band. He later paid his way through college with money earned in the dance bands and graduated from University of Superior in 1936 with a teaching degree in Mathematics and Music.

Henry’s first teaching job was in Hammond, WI, where he met and later married Mardy. Obtaining his masters degree in public school administration from the University of Iowa in 1941, he later completed further graduate work at the universities of Minnesota, Harvard and UC Berkeley.

He enlisted in the Navy in the 1940’s, teaching communications, and served in the South Pacific during WWII. After numerous moves, the family settled in Adin, CA, and Henry became superintendent of schools and band director. Under his direction, the school earned the title of Project School #1 in California in Language Arts.

The family moved to Washington State in 1953, where he served as administrator in Inchelium, Wishram, Anatone and Eatonville. His focus was on individual learning and teacher quality. In each district, Henry was an enthusiastic, creative teacher and administrator, always leaving the districts in better financial status than he found them; and very often started their first music and school lunch programs. New school buildings and teacher housing at Inchelium on the Colville Indian Reservation were built with grants Henry procured. He completed 34 years of public service as administrator for 6 districts and bragged that he never missed a day of work in those 34 years.

His love of music continued after retirement while living in Corvallis, OR, with Mardy. He participated in the Corvallis Community Band for more than 25 years and thoroughly enjoyed his “Hot Air” ensemble and the OSU Alumni Marching band. He was famous for calling friends and relatives to play Happy Birthday. In his last years, this expanded to a list of 57 songs, from which people could choose their favorite. Just 6 months ago, at the age of 93, he created a CD of songs to play at his funeral. He was always an innovator and found new ways to touch our hearts through music.

He believed in physical fitness and enjoyed playing wiffle ball and tennis with his 8 children and later with 17 grandchildren. He also has three great-grandchildren. He left a legacy of love for family, music, public education, physical fitness and a deep faith. He was a great role model as a husband, father, teacher, and musician and so much more to many others in his life. He was our mentor until the end. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Remembrances to Corvallis Community Band  
C/o Debbie Hackleman, Treasurer  
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