



# IN THE MOOD

The Olney Big Band  
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2011

Volume 6, Number 3

Dear Readers:

In this final issue of 2011, we celebrate the life of Bob Redding, who played trumpet with the band and was a dear friend.

We thank Bob's family for giving us some of the photographs, which help to illustrate the wonderful life of this remarkable man. As you read through this Special Issue, please join us in remembering and appreciating our buddy Bob Redding.

- ITM Editor



[www.olneybigband.org](http://www.olneybigband.org)

## Robert Ellsworth Redding 1919 – 2011

Excerpts from "Getting to know...Bob Redding,"  
*Potomac Almanac*, August 15-21, 2007



**Q** What community are you a member of, what brought you to it, and how long have you been here?

**A** My residence is in Potomac, Maryland 20854. My home is located in the Fox Hills West subdivision of Montgomery County where I have lived for 35 years. I have three children who have musical talent and have now reached their mature years. Being a senior citizen (age 88), I still have an active family connection with two great grand-daughters. My deceased wife, Virginia Redding, died four years ago from a fatal automobile accident in Delaware. She was smarter than I.

**Q** How would you describe yourself?

**A** I served in the Executive, Legislative, Judicial and Regulatory branches of the federal government, also in the United Nations, and Maryland state and local governments. This wide variety of government service provided many opportunities for legal services, including international transportation. It enabled me to travel extensively and make lasting friendships with other professional people. I provided legal services for many trade associations and practiced tax and transportation law for 30 years. Thus, I consider myself an experienced lawyer but have now reached the age making it necessary to retire from the active practice of law.

**Q** What do you consider to be your biggest achievements?

**A** As a lawyer -- decades of professional service have been most satisfying, from serving as a judge in the Montgomery County judicial system to becoming the international president (Supreme Justice) of Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, International, the largest professional law fraternity in the world. The most satisfying recognition of my achievements was being designated as worthy for "Who's Who in America," "Who's Who in American Law," and "Who's Who in the World." I consider myself as a Man of the World.

**Q** What would you change about your community if you could?

**A** Montgomery County, Maryland is the site of excellent government services. Since the time in 1975 when I was a charter member of the Montgomery County Taxpayer League, I favored and worked for "Good Government at Least Cost." I enjoyed seven years at the County Office of Inspector General. The citizens of this County need to pursue this efficiency goal as permanent business.

**Q** What community "hidden treasure" do you think more people should know about?

**A** The potential leaders of America who as young people are being trained to become citizens of democracy and our future generational leaders -- they deserve our support. We of the Olney Big Band also encourage the youth of our area to become jazz musicians.

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**Q** When you were younger, what did you want to be when you grew up?

**A** I grew up as a victim of 1928 litigation concerning personal custody, but the Indiana Supreme Court ruled in my favor and encouraged the concept of equal justice under the law. This encouraged me to become a lawyer.

**Q** What are some of your personal goals?

**A** At my age, I have achieved many of my goals. But, others remain. For example, I shall make every effort to retain my good health for another decade. I hope that my children will continue to thrive and enjoy their approaching senior citizen years. I shall maintain my interest in and support for my organizational ties, e.g., my Masonic affiliations, my church choir music, my international law fraternity progress, my University club pleasures, and my happy connections with a lifetime of friendships.

**Q** Do you have a favorite quotation?

**A** Long ago, I told my children to get a good education because this is something nobody can take away from them.

**Q** How did you get involved in the Olney Big Band?

**A** My interest in its style of music originated as I grew up on an Indiana farm during the Big Band Era. In my junior high school year, I gave up basketball and instead took weekly trumpet lessons in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

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## I led "The Ohio State Collegians," a five-piece jazz band

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At Ohio State, I played several years in its famous football band, the TBDBITL -- The Best Damned Band In The Land. For two college summers I led "The Ohio State Collegians," a five-piece jazz band, which entertained shipboard passengers on ocean liner trips to

and from Europe. I also had the good fortune to play jazz in the "Preservation Hall" in New Orleans. And I once carried Harry James' trumpet case at a college jazz concert.

To be more serious, I lost my wife in a Delaware automobile accident in 2004. A good Masonic Brother came to my rescue and helped me join the Olney Jazz Band. I've been there ever since.

**From Douglas Redding:** When my dad was one or two years old, his mother (Lorraine) left his father (Harry) for another man. Lorraine took my dad with her when she left. Harry filed for divorce, and the divorce was granted in 1922 when my dad was three years old. The divorce agreement decreed that custody of my dad would be held jointly by both parents. Harry concluded that he didn't have the inclination or ability to take care of a young child, so he asked his sister Ada and her husband Robert if dad could live with them on their farm outside Bluffton, Indiana. They agreed and my dad moved in with them. Harry was angry with his former wife, and instructed Ada and Robert not to allow Lorraine to have custody of my dad again. However, Harry said that Lorraine could visit Dad occasionally at Ada and Robert's home.

This arrangement naturally did not sit well with Lorraine, who by that time had married her new guy. At some point Lorraine and her husband came up with a scheme to regain custody of my dad. She arranged with Ada and Robert to rendezvous with the three of them at a local park, presumably so she could spend some time with my dad. But Lorraine's husband grabbed my dad and tried to run away with him. Somehow, Ada's husband Robert stopped Lorraine's husband from taking my dad away, so he went back to the farm with Ada and Robert.

Lorraine eventually filed suit to regain joint custody of my dad. It was that suit which slowly made its way through the Indiana court system until it finally got to the Indiana Supreme Court. That court decided in 1928 (when Dad was nine) that custody should remain with Ada and Robert.

The court's decision was based on a number of involved legal factors. But the primary basis for the decision rested upon "sound judicial discretion" rather than "upon hard and fast rule of law." The court decided that the welfare of the child was the paramount consideration, and since Dad had lived so long with Ada and Robert, he should continue to live with them.

I'm not a lawyer and so can't explain how the court's decision represented "equal justice under the law." If my dad were still with us, I'm sure he would relish telling us all about it. He always got a real kick out of being the subject of an Indiana Supreme Court decision, and I have no doubt it's what inspired him to become a lawyer.

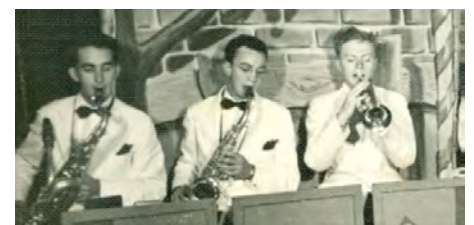
On the negative side, I believe the obviously difficult circumstances -- his parents' divorce; the lengthy, bitter custody battle -- left a real scar on my dad's psyche from a very young age. The result was that for the rest of his life my dad worked as hard as he could on any task he undertook so people would think well of him.

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## My dad reaped so much enjoyment and satisfaction from playing the trumpet, it's impossible to imagine his life without it

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But I believe there was a positive aspect as well. It was Robert (Ada's husband) who came up with the idea that my dad should learn how to play the cornet, which ultimately led to him playing the trumpet. My dad reaped so much enjoyment and satisfaction from playing the trumpet, it's impossible to imagine his life without it. □



Bob with the Ohio State Collegians  
(Photo provided by Douglas Redding)



# Robert Ellsworth Redding

## A Brief Biography of Judge Robert E. Redding

by BOB REDDING

(Written by himself,  
after March, 2011)

(Notes added by Rip Rice)

**M**y age is now 92 years old.  
I have been a member of the  
Masonic Fraternity for 60 years.

I am listed as a member of  
Who's Who in America and  
Who's Who in the World.

I am listed as a member of  
Who's Who in America and  
Who's Who in the World.

I served as a presiding Judge  
in Montgomery County,  
MD, for three years.

I served as a legislative assistant for a  
member of Congress for three years.

I have been a 12-year member  
of AFIO, Association of Former  
Intelligence Officers, having  
served as Vice President.

I am the surviving senior Supreme  
Justice (International Justice) of  
the Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) Law  
Fraternity, International, the largest  
international legal organization  
in the world, with more than  
285,000 members and with more  
than 500 law school chapters.

(From Robert Redding Jr.: In 1967,  
Judge Bob Redding conceived  
the idea that there should be an  
annual Phi Alpha Delta (PAD) Day  
held at the U.S. Supreme Court.  
The first PAD Day at the United  
States Supreme Court was held on  
Monday, May 20, 1967. Bob was  
instrumental with establishing and  
maintaining the event's success over  
the years. During the event, PAD  
Members who are in good standing  
with their state bar associations  
have the opportunity to place their

credentials to practice law before the US  
Supreme Court. The event consists of a  
welcoming reception for admittees and  
the ceremony at the Court. Oftentimes,  
because of Bob's connections, the PAD  
has been honored to have Supreme  
Court Justices visit with them on  
this special day. Over the years, Bob  
had developed great relationships  
with Supreme Court Justices and the  
staff at the court. The past two PAD  
Days, 2010 and 2011, we were able to  
initiate Justices Kagan and Sotomayor  
into PAD, all due to Bob's efforts.)

For ten years, I was a writer  
for *Transportation and  
Distribution Magazine*.

I was employed for a decade by the  
U.S. Department of Transportation and  
negotiated transportation agreements  
with Russia, China, and France.

I am a 58-year member of the Bar of  
the United States Supreme Court.

I was a soldier in the United States  
Army from 1944 to 1946 and served  
as Post Judge Advocate at the Walter  
Reed Hospital in Washington, D.C.

(Bob Redding also played trumpet  
in the Walter Reed Hospital post  
band, along with drummer Louis  
Bellson, who became one of Bob's  
post-World War II friends for life.)

I was Vice President-General Counsel  
for the Transportation Association of



Bob Redding during WWII  
(Photo provided by Douglas Redding)

America for 10 years and lobbied  
members of Congress on its behalf.

My music profile included trumpeter  
for the Ohio State University  
Football Band; I directed the Ohio  
State Collegians band on two trips  
to Europe; and I currently serve as  
a member of the Olney Big Band  
in the Washington D.C. area.

I served as a practicing attorney  
until age 85, after 37 years of law  
practice and 26 years in retirement. □



The 304th ASF Military Band circa 1943, Louie Belson is seated directly behind Bob  
(Photo provided by Robert Redding)

# BOB'S EARLY MUSICAL LIFE

by DR. RIP RICE

**I**t was Bob's uncle Robert (to whom we were introduced on page 2) who suggested that young Bob take up the cornet, and soon he excelled in playing this instrument. So proficient had Bob Redding become as a cornet player that by age 17 he was one of two Indiana State cornet soloist audition winners at the 1936 Hoosier Music Festival, held in April at Indiana University, Bloomington, IN.

There were some powerful judges at this 1936 Hoosier Music Festival -- no less than Dr. Edwin Franko Goldman (world renowned composer and director of the Goldman Band) and Dr. Frank Simon (Director of the famous Armco Band).

**Young man has everything in his favor, and should advance rapidly and become an outstanding performer**

Both of these well-respected musicians sent the following comments to Bob Redding about his winning solo audition --

From Dr. Goldman: "Style throughout a little too heavy. Interpretation could be better. Young man has everything in his favor, and should advance rapidly and become an outstanding performer."

From Dr. Simon: "Your playing is too rough. This solo requires very artistic playing; it is style, taste, interpretation that is required. You have a good embouchure and ample ability. In the hands of an



Bob sports his horn and Ohio State University Marching Band Uniform  
(Photo provided by Douglas Redding)

artist teacher, you should go places."

There was an interesting sidelight to this competition. The Hoosier Music Festival program of April 16-18, 1936 states: "This last spring, ...the Pawnee Indians of Oklahoma made Dr. Goldman a Great Chieftain of their tribe, to replace the late John Philip Sousa, who was their [former] chieftain." Dr. Goldman was known as "Chief Bugle."<sup>(1)</sup>

Five years earlier, in 1931, the *Frisco Employes' [sic] Magazine*<sup>(2)</sup> reported the earlier part of the story: In "an event of exceptional interest" connected with the National High School Band Contest in Tulsa, Dr. Sousa was made a chief in the Pawnee Indian tribe, and

was thereafter known to them as "Chief Singer." "The title was conferred on him by a group of chieftains and Maj. Gordon W. Lillie, widely known as 'Pawnee Bill'."

How many musicians alive today know that both John Philip Sousa and Edwin Franko Goldman were Pawnee Indian chieftains?

(1) A.P. Graham, *Great Bands of America*. NY: Thomas Nelson & Sons, 1951.

(2) "Tulsa Entertains 2,800 Musicians May 21 - 23," *Frisco Employes' Magazine*, July 21, 1931. [http://thelibrary.org/lochist/frisco/magazines/fem\\_1931\\_07/fem\\_1931\\_07\\_21.pdf](http://thelibrary.org/lochist/frisco/magazines/fem_1931_07/fem_1931_07_21.pdf). Accessed 11/30/2011. □



# RECUERDOS

## Reflections On Our Friend, Our Buddy, And Our Esteemed Colleague

by DR. RIP RICE

**T**hose fans of the Olney Big Band who have been coming to hear us since 2004 will remember the elderly gentleman in our trumpet section. Every now and then, he would rise to play a solo. Usually that solo was during our playing of Glenn Miller's "In The Mood". The classic trumpet solo that Bob Redding stuck to was originally recorded by one of his musical idols, trumpet player and arranger Billy May.

As OBB's Leader, nothing gave me more pleasure than to let the applause die down, and then announce to the audience words to the effect "and that young man on the trumpet solo is Bob Redding -- he is \_\_\_\_ years old, and still playing trumpet like that!"

When Bob started playing with us in 2004, he was 85. He turned 92 this past March, and the last time I was able to give Bob yet another accolade was at a concert/dance shortly after that.

**I have often heard about and read of people who never had a bad word to say about anyone, but until Bob Redding came into my life, I never really believed that such people existed outside the confines of some fictional story.**

Bob Redding was much more than a trumpet-playing Judge. He was one of the finest human beings that God ever placed on this planet. I have often heard about and read of people who never had a bad word to say about anyone, but until Bob Redding came into my life, I never really believed that such people existed outside the confines of some fictional



Bob Redding, Indiana farm boy  
(Photo provided by Douglas Redding)

story. But during Bob's memorial services, I found out that never saying a bad word about anybody is part of the Masonic Creed, and Bob was a 60-year member of the Masonic Fraternity (the Scottish Rites Temple, 16th St., NW, Washington, DC).

We talk about the Judge's legal life and his biography elsewhere in this issue. For now, let's just talk about what he meant to the Olney Big Band musicians and to our fans.

Bob's musical experience began as a 5-year-old farm boy in Indiana where he played piano at his rural church. He began playing cornet in grade school, but switched to trumpet during his senior year in high school. He attended the Ohio State University where he played in the football and concert bands. Bob also headed up a five-piece jazz band called the "Ohio State Collegians," and during the summers of 1938 and 1939, this swinging group sailed to and from Europe playing on board the

S.S. Bremen to entertain passengers. (The S.S. Bremen was a German Line ship, and flew both the German Nazi Swastika flag AND, while in American waters, the American flag as well).

Bob played in many groups, including sit-in sessions at Preservation Hall in New Orleans, and even had the privilege of playing "Taps" at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington National Cemetery. Bob also managed the music program for the Grand Lodge and Scottish Rite (Masons) Temple in Washington, D. C.

### **I First Met Bob Redding In A Pickup Jazz Combo**

Around 1997-1998, my drummer friend Paul Hassler, called me to ask if I could fill in with a combo he had organized to play for a Lion's Club dinner-dance. Sure -- I love playing tenor sax with combos. I arrived, and all the musicians except the drummer were strangers. The combo consisted of trumpet, tenor, piano, bass, and drums. I sat down next to the trumpet player. "Hello!" he said, "I'm Bob Redding. Welcome to this group!"

That greeting in itself was rather unusual for musicians. Usually, musicians introducing themselves, and ESPECIALLY trumpet players introducing themselves, usually have that slightly aloof air that exudes the "I'm better than you, and you'd better realize that from the start!" attitude. But not this guy! His warm greeting, soft smile, and obvious wish that I feel relaxed, was disarming.

So our drummer friend kicked off the first tune and, as usually happens in combos, after a four or eight-bar introduction by the rhythm section, the trumpet carries the melody for (usually) the first chorus, followed

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by other soloists. Whatever we were playing -- maybe "All of Me", maybe something else with a nice up-tempo beat, I was noodling around behind the trumpet chorus which this Redding fellow was playing remarkably well. First choruses are usually played so as to define the melody for audiences, but some ad-libbing is allowed, as long as it is around the melody. Subsequent choruses sometimes stray outside the limits of the melody, but always remain within the chord structure of the tune, of course.

Toward the end of this first "straight" chorus, this Redding fellow, still playing around the melody, turns his horn and body toward me and nods, meaning that I play the next chorus. I chose to move slightly further away from the melody than Redding's first chorus had, to sort of indicate to the audience that we were going to progress a bit. After my chorus came a piano chorus, then Redding took over again -- with a solo much jazzier that departed from the melody much further than any others to this point. When he got to the release, he quickly turned his horn to me, still playing his great solo, meaning "take it!" So I did, and with great trepidation played the wildest release I could summon up, after which Bob joined me for the last 8 bars. Then we took it out and ended the piece.

While the audience was applauding, Bob turned 'round to the drummer (combo leader) and said, in a not too quiet voice, so I would be sure to hear, "Paul -- we can keep this guy. He's ok!"

While the audience was applauding, Bob turned 'round to the drummer, who was the combo leader, and said, in a not-too-quiet voice so I would be sure to hear, "Paul -- we can keep this guy. He's ok!"



Bob gets ready to swing at the Bumper Car Pavillion in Glen Echo, MD  
(Photo provided by Paul Freirich)

What a great welcome for me. Not what I had expected -- especially from a trumpet player!

### Tragedy Strikes

In 2004, Bob's wife went out to visit some friends in Delaware, but never returned. There had been a fatal crash. Bob was devastated, and after a while his friend Paul Hassler, now playing drums for our then Olney Jazz Troupe, introduced Bob to us. Bob played well, soloed well, and became a fixture with us.

### Bob Was Much More Than A Musician

After a few months, we decided that it would be fitting for the "Olney Jazz Troupe" to apply for Internal Revenue Service status as a not-for-profit organization. This required some legal assistance, and Judge Redding was right there to help us. IRS - NFPO status also requires the organization to have a Board of Directors, and again, Bob Redding participated, as one of the founding members of the Olney Big Band's Board of Directors (we changed our name in 2006). He also helped to develop our by-laws.

After our first few meetings, primarily to get ourselves organized legally, Bob Redding offered, "This band needs a newsletter. Why don't we establish one, and call it 'In The Mood'?"

Quite fortunately, some band members had some newsletter experience in their work-a-day, real-life jobs. Brad Bawek (our superb boy vocalist) is a graphics artist. I had edited two technical newsletters. Others were eager to help, and off we went, assembling and laying out our first issue, which appeared in August 2006.

That first issue was pure Bob Redding -- all of the articles were written by him, except for two short snippets on the last page, and we even featured Bob in our first "Player Spotlight" section. And so it began -- as a four-page newsletter primarily intended for OBB players. However, when copies started finding their way around the audiences, many people asked to be signed up to receive copies.

Each issue started to take shape soon after release of the previous issue, thanks to Bob Redding. But also, the size of each issue began expanding as more things happened with and to the Band and as Bob collected more stories about Big Bands, their famous band leaders, their vocalists, arrangers, and key musicians. Throughout each subsequent issue are stories written by Bob Redding. (All back issues of *In The Mood* are available on our web site -- [www.olneybigband.org](http://www.olneybigband.org); click on "Newsletter.")

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## "GENERATIONS" CD

We produced our first CD in early 2007. It was titled *Generations* because of the wide generational spread of the players in our band. At the top was Judge Bob Redding in his late 80s, and at the other end was Alexander Leishman, then a 17-year-old trombone-playing high school student, who currently attends the University of Maryland and no longer plays with us. So band members called Bob and Alexander "our bookends." All the rest of us fall somewhere in between these two. Incidentally, Bob spotlighted his bookend, Alexander, in the second issue of *In The Mood* (vol. 1, issue #2, October 2006).

## Memorable *In The Mood* Articles from Bob

In the October 2007 issue (vol. 2, issue #5), Bob described the "Bethany Beach (Delaware) Jazz Funeral," an annual event in which he had been playing for over a decade. This annual "Jazz Funeral" involves a gathering of mourners -- some draped in black, some wearing dark sunglasses, and some dressed in full comedic costume, some carrying flowers and reeds, or others twirling oversized umbrellas. About 5:30 in the evening the sobbing mourners shuffle along the Boardwalk carrying a casket containing a mannequin that represents "Summer of (year)" to its final resting place at the Boardwalk Bandstand. A little fun, a little sadness, and a lot of jazz. Not much better than that, eh?

In the September 2008 issue (vol. 3, issue #4), Bob Redding wrote some interesting "Advice for Young Jazz Musicians," and in particular, for young trumpeters. Bob was always looking out for the younger generation -- always wanting to recruit young musicians into falling in love with and playing big band music.

In 2009, drummer Louie Bellson, a long-time friend of Bob's, passed on. Bob wrote a magnificent tribute to his friend and musical colleague of



Rip Rice, Alexander Leishman and Bob Redding at the Brooke Grove Retirement Village, circa 2007 (Photo provided by Dave Schumer)

three years during World War II in the 304th ASR Military Band (June 2009, vol. 4, issue #2). In that same issue is a brief report of a 90th birthday party celebration that the Olney Big Band sponsored for its bookend patriarch. At that party, Bob gave "The State of My Union Address," to wit:

### "For me, life is too short for:

1. Buying new tires.
2. Cleaning out my basement.
3. Having the exact change.
4. Requiring cloth napkins.
5. Requiring manual car windows.
6. Staying up to greet the New Year.
7. Keeping up with the news from Asia.

### Great things about growing older:

1. If it is raining no one expects me to vote.
2. Come to think of it, death is kind of a relief.
3. I always get a seat on the bus.
4. If I was going to have Alzheimer's, I'd have it by now.
5. My children are now retired.
6. Juries are less likely to sentence me to death.
7. I'm no longer obligated to use chopsticks in Chinese restaurants.
8. I can conduct Christmas shopping for

25 relatives in 45 minutes.

9. I can leave motel beds unmade.

10. Three pairs of shoes are more than enough.

11. The secret to longevity is to keep breathing.

### How to consider aging:

1. Aging is not particularly interesting. Anybody can get old, all you have to do is live long enough.

2. I want to live until I die, no more and no less.

3. The older you get, the better you get, unless you are a banana.

4. I keep in touch with my friends through the obituary column.

5. I'm the life of the party, when it lasts until 8 p.m."

In August of 2008, the Olney Big Band played an after-dinner-speeches dance for the 63rd Reunion of the 104th Infantry Division, of which I was a member during World War II. This division (the Timberwolves) sailed to France 90 days after D-Day and then fought its way across the Netherlands and Germany, setting a record for over 190 consecutive days in combat. We included a story about that event in the December 2008 issue (vol. 3, issue #5).

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In 2009, Bob came to me with a feature article he had written on Ralph Sutton, the “Master of Stride Piano,” who had died in 2001 and was inducted into the Big Band and Jazz Hall of Fame the following year. Bob gave me this story to review and said, “Did you know that Ralph Sutton played in the 104th Infantry Division Marching Band?” What a small world! I had no idea.

I did recall seeing the 104th Division Swing Band a couple of times in 1944 before we went overseas, and was very impressed with the piano player. But knowing that Infantry Division piano players do not carry a piano on their backs when they play for marching, I asked the band leader, “what do you do with the piano player during marches?” The answer -- “Oh, he plays glockenspiel!”

Read Bob Redding’s fine article about Ralph Sutton, in the December 2009 issue of *In The Mood* (vol. 4, issue #4).

About a month before Bob left us, I received a packet in the mail containing more than a dozen articles he had written,... we haven’t found a magical way to communicate with the dear departed. It’s just that this gentleman was quite prolific for us, even up to his last days.

About a month before Bob left us, I received a packet in the mail containing more than a dozen articles he had written for *In The Mood*. He said that these had not yet been published. So in the issues to come, readers of our newsletter will be seeing articles appearing from time to time written by Robert Redding. No, we haven’t found a magical way to communicate with the dear departed. It’s just that this gentleman was quite prolific for us, even up to his last days. Remember one of his five points on “How to consider aging”: “I want to live until I die, no more and no less.”



Bob Redding and Rip Rice receiving the 2011 AFCEA Award  
(Photo provided by Amato Stellato)

Well, our friend and colleague surely did just that. He was a buddy to everyone associated with this Olney Big Band.

#### AFCEA AWARD

Just this past April 22, the Northern Virginia Chapter of the Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association (AFCEA) selected Judge Robert E. Redding and myself to be honored for our service during World War II at the association’s monthly luncheon meeting. We both were truly pleased with this unsolicited and unexpected award. And in light of Bob’s recent passing, that AFCEA award, which included a magnificent flying eagle with outspread wings mounted atop a heavy wood block, replete with a plaque, is especially meaningful.

In the photo above (left to right), Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense (Information Management, Integration and Technology) and Department of Defense Deputy Chief Information Officer Robert J. Carey (the luncheon speaker). Next is Judge Bob Redding, 92-year old trumpet player in the Olney Big Band, me (Rip Rice, OBB Band Leader), and on the right is Bill Stewart, current President of the AFCEA-NOVA. (I am smirking because I was the only one to notice that Bob and I were holding the other’s flying eagle trophy.)

#### Bob Redding’s Last E-mail To Me --

On August 13, 2011, the OBB played what I consider to be our very finest concert to date: Swing! Swing! Swing! III at the Olney Theatre Center. Unfortunately, Bob was not there, although we were unaware that he would never return to us. Two days before the last rehearsal for the August 13th concert, Dave Schumer (our Business Manager and stalwart baritone sax and clarinet player) and I received the following e-mail from Bob:

“I regret to report that my legs have been disabled this week with two bad falls at home. I just won’t be able to stand up with the other trumpet players as we play the several sets on Saturday, August 13. I think I could manage to sit on a stool or chair but for a concert, all trumpeters should remain standing. I am letting you know now to enable you to get a sub in time for the Monday rehearsal. Assuming that you would have Steve, Bruce, Ray, and Rich, you wouldn’t miss me.

I have my Trumpet book of music, which a fifth trumpeter would need. I will organize the music in the book as the sets progress. Tomorrow, I’ll deliver the book to David’s home for the sub’s use at the Monday rehearsal, if you get one.

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"I'm Very Sorry To Miss This Performance. I Purchased 11 Tickets."

That's the last e-communication I had with Bob. He called Dave to offer to bring his music book to Dave's home, but that wasn't necessary, since we have duplicate electronic copies readily available.

After that, both Dave and I tried e-mails and phone calls, leaving messages for Bob to call us. I wanted to arrange to have Bob picked up and brought to our August 13 concert, where I could recognize him to the packed-house audience. But that was not to be.

### OUR BUDDY -- BOB REDDING

In the repertory of the Olney Big Band is a Ben Grisafi arrangement of "My Buddy." This is a number written in 1922, and is a mournful, doleful ballad in which the vocalist describes how much he/she misses his/her buddy, who has departed. Our friend Ben Grisafi made this number into a nice upbeat jump tempo and turned it into a song of joy, that this Band loves to play. We recorded it on our *Generations* CD that included Bob Redding in our trumpet section.

**We will always think of you  
Bob Redding, whenever we  
play "My Buddy"**

We will always think of you Bob Redding, whenever we play "My Buddy," from now on.

The song has a verse that is rarely ever sung, and equally rarely ever played. But the words are so poignant, that they are surely appropriate to closing this tribute to our buddy, Bob Redding:

"Life is a book that we study  
Some of its leaves bring a sigh  
There it was written, my buddy,  
That we must part, you and I"

Goodbye Bob -- you were truly OUR Buddy -- a buddy to each and every member and alumnus of this OLNEY BIG BAND -- until we meet again!



Bob proudly displays his Ohio State University Marching Band Uniform and horn



Bob swinging in the New Year, 1967



Bob (far left) with the Ohio State Collegians aboard the S.S. Bremen in NY harbor



Bob Redding swings for an appreciative crowd (Photos Provided by Douglas Redding)

# REMEMBRANCES

## Reflections of the OBB and Friends

He was a wonderful man and will be missed.

*Jim Watson, OBB Alumnus, drums*

It is indeed very sad that Bob is gone. His enthusiasm for playing music with us and his easy smile will definitely be missed. What a very nice man!

*Nancy Rondeau, Vocalist*

We are all saddened by the passage of our good friend and 92-year old trumpet player extraordinaire. We will miss you Bob, but knowing the full life you lived, you have given us a goal to shoot for. Thank you.

*Dave Schumer, Business Manager,  
Sax Section*

Bob was an inspiration to us all. He displayed a wondrous blend of class and grace, and exuded an energy that belied his age. His signature wave of the arm and hearty "hullo" was constant proof that he loved being a part of our OBB family, and was always ready to pour his heart into the music that he loved.

*Murray Green, Sax Section*

When reflecting on the litany of accomplishments Bob achieved in his lifetime, it is humbling to consider what he saw as the greatest moments of his life "to date." Bob once declared, "to date, the greatest moment of my life was when as a student of the great Ohio State University, I was fortunate enough to carry the horn case of Harry James. The second greatest moment is being a member of the Olney Big Band." Having known Bob as a band mate and friend can certainly be constituted as one of my greatest moments to date. Counselor, you will be sorely missed.

*Brad Barwek, Vocalist*

Sorry to hear this. For the short time that I knew him and talked with him he was always cordial and very gracious.

*Ray Strucker, Trumpet Section*

A wave of sadness came over me at the news. While I didn't know Bob all that well, I always admired his pleasant demeanor and his willingness to do anything he could to help the Band. It was truly inspirational to look down the row and see this 92-year-old man sitting in the section every week playing music with the rest of us. We shouldn't be sad for Bob, but happy and thankful that he had a truly wondrous life and that he lived it to the fullest right up until the end. May we all be so blessed. My prayers go out to his family, his friends, and all of us that worked with Bob over the years. May the Lord greet him with open arms.

*Bruce Morris, Trumpet Section*

So sad. He was and will be an inspiration to us always!

*Amato Stellato, Trombone Section*

It was a gift to have met him and see his kind eyes sparkle with many shared smiles. Indeed, he is an inspiration to us all to remain forever musical and a reminder to be present at every moment.

*Liz Schwendenmann, Bass*

We are all saddened by the loss of Bob in our trumpet section. He greeted me with joy and enthusiasm last winter when I arrived, genuinely wanted to learn and contribute and was always cheerful and happy to be with us for rehearsals and gigs. What a life he had. He must have enjoyed every breath he took. We will miss him and be glad that we shared our music with him.

*Bob Tennyson, Music Director*

Bob became a good friend and we'll miss him.

*Paul Freirich, Sound Engineer*

Sorry to hear about Bob, I noticed he was not playing Saturday (Aug 13), but thought nothing more of it. I know he will be missed.

*Halsey Smith, OBB Board of Directors*

Very sad news indeed. As a new member of the band earlier this year, I was struck by how welcoming and friendly Bob was to me - clearly an attribute that the rest

of the band got to enjoy for a much longer time. I wish we all had some more time with him, but pleased to hear from others that he had a very full life as well as a full experience in OBB. He's a role model for all of us - I'm sure we all hope to be playing jazz with friends at age 92.

*Bill Klein, Sax Section*

He played trumpet on trans-Atlantic ocean liners before WW2! The man was a wonder in his enthusiasm and support for the band and we were all fortunate to have played with him - me in particular -- in sitting next to him for several years.

*Glenn Ochsenreiter, Trumpet Section  
Alumnus*

Spirits like Bob's are simply life-affirming. To me he projected with a rare sort of clarity who he was and what he found important. This was all part of a simple authenticity of character.

*Ed Synakowski, Trombone Section  
Alumnus*

I've been thinking about Bob a great deal during the last days. How I hope to be the welcoming gentleman he always was. I've put on the Generations CD to listen to his solos. They were so classic, always swinging with just the right licks to respect the feel of the music. I have been remembering the gigs when he was strong. I remember one in particular at the dance studio where he took several really strong solos. They brought huge smiles to everyone in the band.

My wife and daughter are quite sad, too. As audience members, they remember his constant smile through every gig, projecting the spirit of a man happy to be where he was at that very moment. And, of course, his pumping fists when Rip announced him and his age after he soloed. Peace to you Bob, and thanks for the light you gave us.

*Chris Koepke, Trombone Section*

Bob lived a great life. I knew of his many accomplishments as a musician and a judge. I enjoyed talking to him and knew that he was a very wise

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man. To reach his age you need to be wise! Whenever we had a substitute in the trumpet section, they would have the same reaction. Wow! We would all be lucky to even hold up a trumpet much less play a solo at his age. I think Bob inspired us all.

*Jeff Summers, Trumpet Section*

I've truly enjoyed the privilege of playing next to Bob Redding in the band. He was a remarkable man with an indomitably positive outlook on life.

*Rich Sonnenschein, Trumpet Section*

It was a great privilege to play at Bob's 90th birthday party and to meet Bob's children and their families and friends. I also loved spending some time with his daughter and her husband in Switzerland during the Montreux trip (2009). We have a few pictures of them together, and of Bob playing on the stage. He was truly remarkable. I'll miss him.

*Sue Vazakas, Sax Section*

I sure will miss Bob. He was a great guy.

*Alexander Leishman, Trombone Section*

*Alumnus (Bob's "Bookend")*

I had the chance to work with Bob on the "Friends of the Olney Big Band" project. We really enjoyed working with each other. Bob approached this project the same way he approached everything in life.

He was thorough, very logical, and also very compassionate in all that he did. When he drafted the "Goals and Mission of the Olney Big Band," his most immediate desire was to ensure that the band was true to the authenticity in our playing of "Swing Music." Just as important to him was bringing the joy of swing to the younger members of our community. I am honored to be able to call Bob Redding a friend. He always had a smile at every concert and was totally committed to doing his best for the band. He was the most gracious person I ever met.

*Barry Fell, OBB Board of Directors*

He was an exceptional individual and the Planet Earth is now lacking one great human being. Nancy Biggin, Spouse of OBB Alumnus Merle Biggin, piano



Bob swings the Sunday Jazz Brunch at the Sandy Spring Ballroom (2007)



Bob with the Dave Schumer during the Montreux, Switzerland tour (2009)  
(Photo provided by Dave Schumer)



Bob at the Spring Flower and Jazz Festival in Westminster, MD (2011)  
(Photo provided by Brad Bawek)



Bob and his section buddies at a Libertytown, MD wedding gig (2011)  
(Photo provided by John Freirich)

# Key Personnel

Band Leader: Dr. Rip G. Rice  
Music Director: Dr. Bob Tennyson  
Associate Director: Brian A. Damron  
Business Manager: David B. Schumer  
Sound Engineer: Paul Freirich  
Band Historian/Archivist: Vacant

# Board of Directors

Dr. Rip G. Rice, President  
Brad Bawek, Vice President, Design and Publishing  
Barry Fell, Friends of OBB  
Paul Freirich  
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Bruce Morris  
David B. Schumer, Secretary/Treasurer  
Liz Schwendenmann, Recording Secretary  
Halsey Smith  
Richard Sonnenschein

# In The Mood

Editor: Dr. Sue Vazakas  
Contributing Editors: Dr. Rip Rice, Dave Schumer  
Designer: Brad Bawek  
Send submissions to: RGRice4ozone@aol.com

# Friends of the OBB

The Friends of the Olney Big Band are people who love to listen and dance to big band music and are dedicated to keeping alive the spirit of American Big Band swing, dance, and jazz music. Friends support the efforts of the Band by encouraging volunteerism and by donating and soliciting and receiving gifts, bequests and endowments for the Band.

## Benefactors:

- Barry and Ali Fell

## Arrangers:

- Brooke Grove Retirement Village  
Sandy Spring Friends School

## Side Men:

- American Legion Norman Price Post 68, Roger Aldridge,  
Dr. Charles C. Chen, Flaming Pit Restaurant Gaithersburg,  
Globetrotter Travel Services of Olney, Graeves Auto and Appliance,  
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teria of Olney, Alan Rich/Nova Label Co., Sandy Spring Lions Club,  
Halsey W. Smith, Studio of Ballet Arts, Dolores and Gary Wilkinson

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Charles and Elsbeth Woodward

## Honorary Friends:

- Joe Karam & Robert Redding (in memoriam), Barry Schwartz

If you are interested in becoming a *Friend of the Olney Big Band* go to the OBB website and click *Friends of the OBB* for details.

# OBB Events Schedule

**Friday, December 23** - Festival Of Lights Concert, Mormon Temple, 9900 Stoneybrook Drive, Kensington, MD. Part of the Temple's 34th annual Festival of Lights performances on stage at the Washington, D.C. Temple Visitor's Center. The first concert will be at 7 PM and the second at 8 PM. FREE and open to the public.

**Saturday, January 21** - Leisure World Concert, Silver Spring , 7:00pm - 8:30pm Private Event

**Sunday, March 18** - Heartlands Senior Living Village Concert and Dance, Ellicott City, MD, 6:00pm - 7:30pm Private Event

**Saturday, May 19** - Olney Days Concert and Fireworks, Olney Manor Park, Olney, MD, 7:30pm - 9:00pm - Open to Public

**Saturday, September 15** - Swing! Swing! Swing! IV, Olney Theatre Center, 1:30pm - 4:00pm - Open to public

# OBB Rehearsals

Mondays 8-10 pm

*All full band rehearsals*

"Get a good education; nobody can take that away from you!"

~ Robert Redding

## For Band Information Contact

Dr. Rip G. Rice - Band Leader:  
301-774-9133  
RGRice4ozone@aol.com

## For Booking Information Check our Website or Contact

David B. Schumer - Manager:  
301-598-2107  
theolneybigband@gmail.com

[www.olneybigband.org](http://www.olneybigband.org)