

**Our First Meritorious Inductee into the Class of 2012 is:
Mr. John Miliauskas**

Mr. John Miliauskas' career as a musician and conductor flourished at an early age. It was his father who started him in music when he was six years old by teaching him to play the trumpet. With great talent that could not be denied, he began performing professionally as a teenager during the big band era and was only sixteen when he won the Pennsylvania State Forensic of Music Conducting Award as a student of Pompey Forlano. He then became conductor of the Back Mountain Community Band, in Dallas, Pennsylvania and later went on to become the Assistant Conductor of the Mansfield Symphony Orchestra during his undergraduate studies.

Upon completing his Bachelor of Science Degree in Music Education from Mansfield University, Mr. Miliauskas joined the United States Army. While in the Army he directed numerous military bands during the Korean Conflict.

John Miliauskas' performing career has been extensive. As a member of the Lee Vincent Big Band, he played with such greats as Perry Como and Jerry Vale, and appeared many times on the famed Steel Pier in Atlantic City. Additionally, he performed on NBC's Today Show with the Garland Orchestra.

Mr. Miliauskas joined the faculty at Lake-Lehman High School in 1956 as director of bands. His marching, concert, and jazz bands received many prestigious awards in competition at international, national and state levels throughout his tenure.

For 28 years, the award winning Lake-Lehman High School Band took top honors in all categories at the Sherburne Pageant of Bands, New York. Additional awards included first place honors at the Six Flags Festival of Music Parade, Atlanta Georgia in 1979 and being named Grand National Champions in the same parade in 1985, earning three superior ratings in concert, field and parade band.

Mr. Miliauskas said that he and his students could not have accomplished what they had without the support of the Lake-Lehman School Board, high school administration, faculty, staff and parents.

Rightfully, John Miliauskas has won numerous honors in recognition of his dedication in furthering the development and musical accomplishments of young musicians as well as his own personal outstanding achievements. He has been honored by the Kiwanis, Rotary, and Lions Clubs, as well as the American Federation of Musicians. He was awarded the American Legion "Man of the Year" award. He has been designated "Outstanding Director" on several occasions. He received the "Citation of Excellence" award from both the National Band Association and the Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, and most recently he has been inducted into the Class of 2012, Pennsylvania Music Educators Association Hall of Fame.

Mr. Miliauskas is a member of Phi Mu Alpha, Phi Beta Mu, National Band Association, Pennsylvania Music Educators Association, Music Educators National Conference, American Federation of Musicians and Just Judges Association.

After 33 years of teaching, John Miliauskas retired from Lake-Lehman High School in 1989 and has served as guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator at numerous major music festivals. He also began a band program at Luzerne County Community College in Nanticoke, PA where he was band director for nine years.

Today, John Miliauskas continues to perform and teach privately and enjoys time with his wife, four children and nine grandchildren.