

William N. Rogers

May 13, 2010

After a lifetime of playing French horn, William N. Rogers, 79, a descendant of pioneer settlers of Onondaga



County and a lifetime resident of the Syracuse area, has been summoned by Gabriel to play in the Heavenly Band. Prior to

his death on Thursday, May 13, Mr. Rogers had performed with the Grant Junior High School Orchestra, the North High School Orchestra, the Syracuse University Community Orchestra, the City Recreation Orchestra, the Onondaga Civic Symphony, the Music Forum, the Syracuse University Summer Concert Band, the Baldwinsville Community Band, the Liverpool Community Band and the Mohawk Valley Community Band. He also performed with the Masterworks Orchestra at Carnegie Hall and with the Masterworks Chorus at Avery Fisher Hall in New York City. In addition to playing French horn, Mr. Rogers was a certified calliapist and played accordion, percussion and steel drums.

He loved education and attended Washington Irving, Jefferson and Salina elementary schools; Grant Junior High School; and North High School, where he graduated as valedictorian in January 1949. He graduated from University College of Syracuse University in 1965 and from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1973. He also studied at the State University College at Oswego and at Le Moyne College. He won many awards for his academ-

ic achievements, including the Bausch and Lomb Science Award. During his working years, he was employed by Lamanna's Market, the Pastime Athletic Club, the Betty-Ann Bakery, First Trust and Deposit Company (later Key Bank), Hotel Syracuse, Merchants Bank, OnBank and the State University College at Oswego. He retired from the State University College at Oswego and as senior vice president of operations from KeyBank. Since 1996, Mr. Rogers had been a volunteer tutor of mathematics, French, Spanish, Italian and German at Onondaga Community College and was recently recognized for his contribution in those studies. He also studied Chinese, Japanese, Latin, Greek, Russian and several other languages.

Mr. Rogers was a staff writer for the Naples (Florida) Journal and the Pelican Bay (Florida) Journal. His articles have also appeared in the North Naples Gazette, the North Naples Journal and the Cache Magazine in New Jersey. He also wrote poetry and gave readings of his work at Onondaga Community College. The National Library of Poetry has published his poetry in "Tracing Shadows."

Mr. Rogers' hobbies, besides music, included collecting die-cast automobile models and genealogy. He was a skier for many years and a member of the Onondaga Ski Club. He was awarded the Club Award in 1964.

He loved dogs and they seemed to sense that he did and gravitated to him. His refrigerator door was a showcase of pictures of his many dog friends. He especially loved boxer dogs.

He traveled extensively through England, Wales, the Channel Islands, Northern and Southern Ireland, France, Austria, Germany, Russia, Greece, Spain, Portugal, Italy, Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, Turkey, Venezuela, Peru, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, the Bahamas, Taiwan, Hong Kong, the Philippines, Japan, New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, Tahiti, Mexico, Canada, Israel, China, Puerto Rico, the Southern and Eastern Caribbean and the United States.

Mr. Rogers was predeceased by his brother, Robert C. Rogers, in 1947; his father, Horace C. Rogers, in 1974; and his mother, Iva Nitzke Rogers, in 1996. Many cousins survive him, and the ground at his grave will seem oddly barren as if it had been strewn with salt by the wash of tears from the many friends whom he has left behind. Calling hours will be 4 to 7 p.m. Monday at Fairchild & Meech DeWitt Chapel, 3690 Erie Blvd. East. **Funeral services** will be 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at the funeral chapel, and burial will be at Assumption Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, **contributions** may be made to a favorite charity.

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