

## **Ed Manley Memorial Endowment**

Ed Manley was born in Philadelphia, and began playing his saxophone and clarinet professionally at the age of 16 in the Philadelphia and New Jersey shore area. When he and Dorothy started a family, he was determined to stop the extensive travel required with big bands and started a career in the food business; while continuing to play music as a lifetime avocation.

Ed and Dorothy moved their family from Pennsylvania to Westfield in the early 1950's and quickly established permanent roots in Western Massachusetts. While continuing his "day job," Ed also created a legacy as a musician in the area. He played with trios, large orchestras, and the Westfield American Legion band until the age of 90. Rarely was there a Friday or Saturday evening that he didn't have an engagement; also entertaining at many an afternoon wedding reception.

At age 72, Ed went to Westfield State University and enrolled for clarinet lessons. After playing the instrument for over 50 years, he was determined to get better. He was a real inspiration for lifelong learning and told family and friends that while taking lessons he did get better, and had to practice to achieve that goal.

Ed also had a wonderful talent for arranging music to be played by larger orchestras, and he took great pride in listening to his arrangements performed by a number of orchestras in the Western Massachusetts area.

At age 90, Ed was commissioned by his family to arrange and perform with his closest colleagues on a collectable album. As with everything he did in his life, the result was a professional legacy to his music and the music he loved to perform.

Ed was active in the Westfield community and his church community. Always willing to contribute, he was president of the local musicians' organization, head usher and member of the music committee at church, and spent his last 15 years as an active member of the Westfield YMCA.

Above all, Ed was a man known to his family, friends and colleagues for his unfailing integrity, and faithfulness to his family and community.

It is our wish that the Ed Manley Memorial Endowment recipient be an individual who is of excellent character, and has a personal goal to pursue a path in the music profession, music education, or the performing arts.

Submitted by: Ed's children and their families; Lynn, Dave, Don, Janet, and Gary  
February 2013