

## Golden Anniversary - 1998

The Alexandria Chapter had abundant reason to make 1998 a golden year of celebration. Winning the chapter's fourth gold medal in Atlanta provided tangible confirmation that the chapter deserved its year of proud recollection. Mike Everard and Gary Smith led the effort for the Fiftieth Anniversary celebration that would include the writing of a chapter history and a sequence of commemorative events and displays.



At the Presidents' Ball in February, "Golden Stars" were awarded to seven people who had made innumerable, significant contributions to the growth and development of the Alexandria Chapter: • Dean Snyder, Founder and International Historian; • Gene Barnwell, Co-Founder and First Director; • Wilbur Sparks, Mr. Barbershopper; • Bud Arberg, Mr. Barbershop Craftmaster; • Geri Geis, Artistic Director and Choreographer; • Scott Werner, Golden Director and Quartetman; • Maxine Millard, Number One Fan.

In September our reunion family gathered on Saturday afternoon at the Holiday Inn in Alexandria where the walls of the main ballroom were lined with 33 panels depicting the chapter's fifty-year history, displays of chorus uniforms, and items for fund-raising auctions. The Fiftieth Anniversary Show, "Once In A Lifetime, Maybe," traced the music eras of each director and the growth of the chorus from 20 to 120 men. Six past

quartets (NOVA Chords, Friendship Fire Company, Riverside Assembly. Alexandria's Ragtime Band, Copyright '86, Varsity Club) and four present quartets (Four Man Vocal Band, Reminisce, The Bay Rum Runners, Premiere) appeared on the show.

Bud Arberg directed a small chorus representing the '40s. Dick Whitehouse directed a somewhat larger chorus of the '50s and '60s. Scott Werner directed the chorus of the '70s and '80s. Mike Wallen directed the chorus of the '90s. The 1998 International Chorus Champions then performed their contest set and "Director's Lament." President Alan Wile presented framed gold medals to Dean Snyder and to Walter Latzko, the arranger of our gold medal ballad, "Always/In The Wee Small Hours of the Morning."

Harmonious Tagline #1: In 1999, the Alexandria Chapter published its monumental 50-year history— "Breathless Moments" The Alexandria Harmonizers, 1948-1998, dedicated to the memory of Dean Atlee Snyder, Sr. (April 8, 1903 - May 7, 1999).

Harmonious Tagline #2. Harmonizer and Coach Darryl Flinn writes: "The quote goes like this: '*Life is not always measured by the number of breaths we take, but sometimes by the number of breathless moments.*' We introduced the 'breathless moment' concept to the Harmonizers when we were all working hard to achieve our first gold medal. Our practical use of it was to create a moment within a performance that was so stunning the audience literally became breathless from the awe, the thrill, or the anticipation of what was yet to come. Later we identified whole performances, or special events, such as a show or a retreat, as 'breathless moments'."