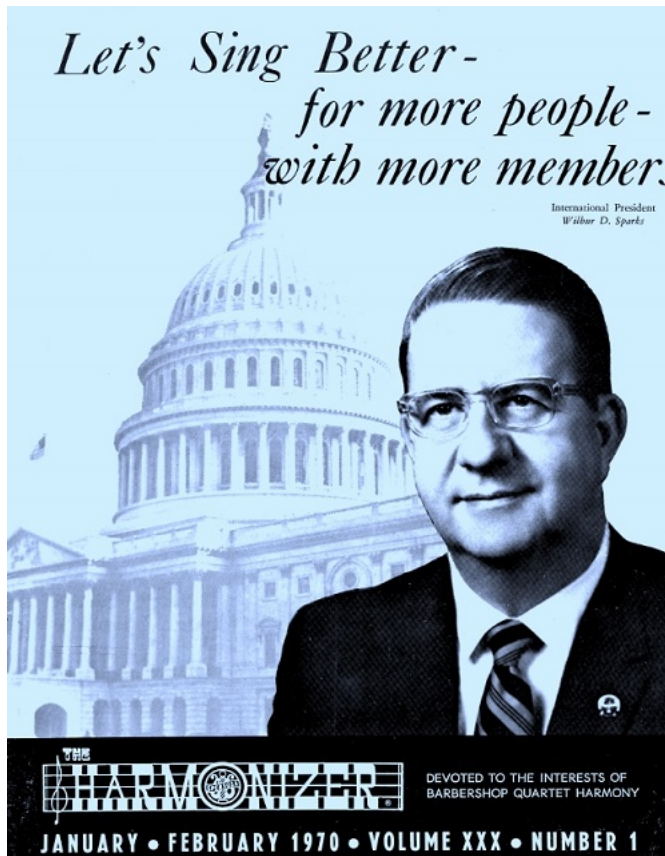


Mr. President, Mr. Barbershopper -1970

Wilbur D. Sparks

Member of the 2004 Inaugural Class of the Barbershop Harmony Society Hall of Fame, Wilbur Sparks was “Mr. Barbershopper” to many across the Society. Eminent arranger, editor, coach, historian, administrator, quartet singer, and judge, he became the 27th President of SPEBSQSA Inc, renamed the Barbershop Harmony Society (BHS), in 1970.

Wilbur was most noted as a leader with a brilliant mind, long-range vision, and far-



reaching influence. He mentored many of the biggest names in barbershop and championed many major successful initiatives. He served with imagination on the faculty of Chapter Officer Training Schools (COTS) and as President of the Society's organization for Public Relations Officers and Bulletin Editors (PROBE).

He shared his love for the preservation of barbershop history with Dean Snyder and was awarded the honorary titles of Parliamentarian Emeritus, Judge Emeritus, and Historian Emeritus by the Society. Wilbur was Mid-Atlantic District President in 1966-67, a member of DELASUSQUEHUDMAC, and in the Inaugural Class of the District Hall of Honor.

Wilbur joined the Alexandria Chapter in 1954 and was Chapter President in 1957. As “Dr. Put,” he created the chapter's annual Put Together Quartet Contest that would ultimately bear his name. Baritone Section Leader, Assistant Musical Director, and Judge of Voice Expression, Wilbur also wrote and produced numerous Harmonizer annual shows. He was the consummate “Ye Ed” of The Echo, the bi-monthly chapter bulletin, for nearly 40 years. The Sparks' were the first recipients of the Ibbianne and Wilbur Sparks Award, recognizing the important contribution of our “family” to the success and wellbeing of the chapter.

Harmonious Tagline #1: In 2003, the Alexandria Historical Society presented a Special Award for the Chapter's 50-year history, "Breathless Moments: The Alexandria Harmonizers, 1948-1998," recognizing the chapter and editors John Hanna, Gary Smith, and Wilbur Sparks.

Harmonious Tagline #2. The first International Seniors Quartet Contest in 1986 introduced us to The Mount Rushmore Four featuring presidents of the U. S. and the Society. Recreating the famed landmark were Gil Lefholz, 1986 International president as Teddy Roosevelt; Hank Vomacka, 1983, as George Washington; Richard Ellenberger, 1975, as Abraham Lincoln; and Wilbur Sparks, 1970, as Thomas Jefferson. "Even though we're up here, sitting on a mountain, we're still having fun."