

**Larry Porter Deagon**

Aug. 11, 1924 - Dec. 28, 2015 Larry P. Deagon, August 11, 1924 - December 28, 2015. Larry Deagon, age 91, passed away on December 28, 2015. Larry was born in Hornell, New York, to Arthur and Frances Deagon. He was a World War II veteran, serving in the Navy as a Seaman First Class from 1944-1946. He attended college at Birmingham Southern where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Music in 1949. He received his Masters' Degree in Music from Northwestern University in 1952. Larry married Jane Reinert in 1951 and they lived in Birmingham, Alabama, where he became the Band Director at Shades Valley High School. During his tenure, the Shades Valley High School Band was recognized throughout the area and state. Larry was well-known for his production of several musicals at Shades

Valley High School along with other teachers in the Music and Drama Department. These musicals, including On the Town, Music Man and W' Abner, were quite popular and well-attended by the entire community. In the 1960's, Larry was promoted to Supervisor of Bands for Jefferson County. In this position he led the Dental Clinic Halftime Shows at Legion Field, which showcased a combined band performance of all of the Jefferson County Bands. He was also involved in Jefferson County All-County Band until his retirement in 1987. A talented clarinet and saxophone player, Larry performed in many dance bands in the Birmingham area, the Barnum and Bailey Circus Band, and the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra. He also directed the Birmingham Wind Ensemble and the Birmingham Community Concert Band. Larry was elected to the Alabama Band Masters Hall of Fame in 1994. When Larry was not involved in musical endeavors, he enjoyed several leisure activities. He was a model railroader and earned a designation as a Master Builder. He built a large HO scale model railroad in his basement which was featured as a tour site for model railroading conventions as well as on a PBS special. He also designed and built a house on Smith Lake, where he enjoyed sailing and water skiing. He was still water skiing at age 80. His children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren continue to enjoy water sports on Smith Lake. Larry is survived by his devoted wife of 64 years, Jane Reinert Deagon; two children, Catherine Deagon Roy (Fred), and Arthur Deagon (Jan); four grandchildren, Melody Coffey (Josh), Meredith Bain (Nathan), Tyler Deagon (Rachel) and Brian Deagon; and four great-grandchildren. The family will receive friends on Thursday, December 31, from 11:00 am to 12:00 noon at Elmwood Chapel Funeral Home with a memorial service following at 12:00 noon. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations be made to [your favorite charity](#) .

**Funeral Home****Johns-Ridout's Mortuary-Elmwood Chapel**

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