



RICHARD E. PURSEL (Class of 1943)

Richard E. Pursel was born July 24, 1925 in Marshalltown, Iowa and moved to Las Vegas with his family in 1939. He graduated from Las Vegas High School in 1943. Upon graduation, Richard joined the Army and became a decorated U.S. Army veteran of World War II. He served overseas in the U. S. First Army, 520th Quartermaster Railhead Company, landing at Omaha Beach in Normandy, France about 30 days after the first invasion by U.S. Armed Forces there, and served in France from then until the end of the war in Europe, including during the Battle of The Bulge and other military operations.

Richard obtained a degree in music from the Chicago Music Conservatory in 1950 and subsequently obtained a master's degree in music in Las Vegas. For a short time he taught music at Alton Military Academy in Illinois, but soon thereafter returned to Las Vegas. Upon the opening of Rancho High School, he became their first music teacher and band director until his retirement in 1985. During his tenure at Rancho High, he and his high school bands won many marching band contests and received several honors and numerous awards and trophies in competitions in Nevada, California, Arizona, Utah and throughout the western United States.

Richard has been honored by the Clark County School District as a Hall of Fame Teacher as shown by a plaque which hangs in the School District offices. After his retirement from teaching, Richard was employed for several years as a judge of marching band competitions in Southern California.

Richard passed away on November 13, 2010 in Carlsbad, California at the age of 85.

These biographies are based on research and could contain discrepancies.
If there are any excerpts you feel should be changed please feel free to contact dave@lvhsaa.com

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