

Richard O. Regnier '51
Frank W. Misch Alumni Service Award

Today we posthumously honor Richard O. Regnier for his lifetime service to his alma mater. Dick came to Wabash from Tipton, Indiana, majored in history, and played in the band. But he was most identified with his fraternity, Phi Kappa Psi, and he served as his fraternity's representative on the Pan-Hellenic Council. What Dick meant to Phi Kappa Psi as an alumnus garners our praise on this day. Many people who join fraternities at Wabash are simply looking for a place to live for four years. Not Dick Regnier. He chose Phi Kappa Psi for life, and lived out the ideals of the fraternity — integrity, intellect, service, and faith — in all that he did. We trace Dick's history with Indiana Gamma all the way back to the re-chartering of the chapter in 1948 when he was a part of the first pledge class; part of a group of young men who literally built with their own hands the first chapter house. For the 60 years that would follow, Dick was a part of every major milestone in the chapter's history. He helped in the building of the chapter house in its current location in 1964 and its expansion in 1968, and he was a key alumni volunteer when the house was renovated again in 2007. Indeed, Dick guided the processes on both occasions, and made countless phone calls to alumni in search of donations. He was a long-time advisor to the undergraduates and served as president of the House Corporation for as long as anyone can remember. Dick was a true Wabash man in every sense of the word, and friends say that his relationship with the undergraduate and alumni members of Phi Kappa Psi was unparalleled. He built and sustained Indiana Gamma's greatness and taught literally hundreds of young men the values of leadership, service, kindness, and love. Described by his friends as a "driving force," a "quiet leader," and a man of "great impact," Dick's legacy will long be remembered when undergraduates walk by his portrait, which hangs in the Great Hall — Regnier Hall — of the Phi Kappa Psi chapter house. For his lifelong devotion to Wabash and his fraternity; for living out the values of Phi Kappa Psi and the mission of Wabash College; and for instilling those values in generations of young men, the National Association of Wabash Men is proud to posthumously name Richard O. Regnier the recipient of the Frank W. Misch Alumni Service Award. Dick Regnier — Some Little Giant!